



SPECIAL **TIME** EDITION

The Year in Review

Trump Wins • Unrest on Campus • Wars in Israel, Ukraine, Sudan
Fires and Floods • Olympic Thrills • Farewell to Those We Lost
PLUS: Taylor's Eras Tour • Back to the Moon! • Our National Bird



SPECIAL **TIME** EDITION

The Year in Review 2024



Sun lovers gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on April 8 to marvel at the partial eclipse.

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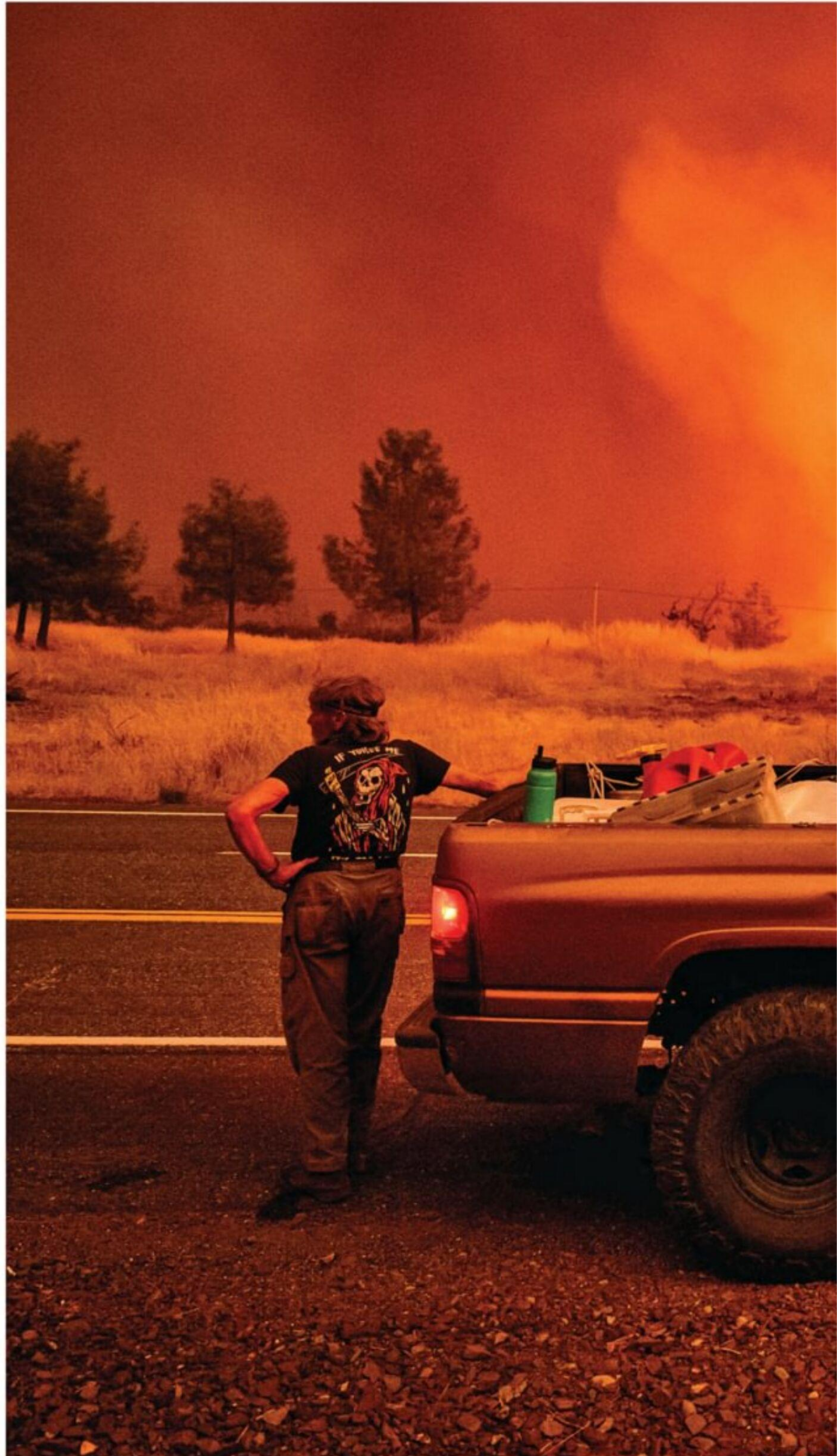
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2024 Images

Wildfires

As Grant and Andrea Douglas evacuated their home in July, they paused on the side of the road near Paynes Creek, California, to watch as the Park Fire burned. Fueled by dry conditions and extreme heat, the northern California fire, the fourth largest in the state's history, scorched 429,000 acres and destroyed at least 700 buildings—4,000 firefighters needed two months to bring it under control. More than 43,000 wildfires blazed in the U.S. in 2024, burning almost 8 million acres. Climate change means that fire seasons are getting longer, and conditions are expected to worsen. It will also be harder to fight the blazes, with the U.S. Forest Service having to contend with budget cuts and the suspended hiring of seasonal employees for the next fiscal year.

Photograph by Josh Edelson/AFP/
Getty Images





2024 Images





Make 'Em Laugh

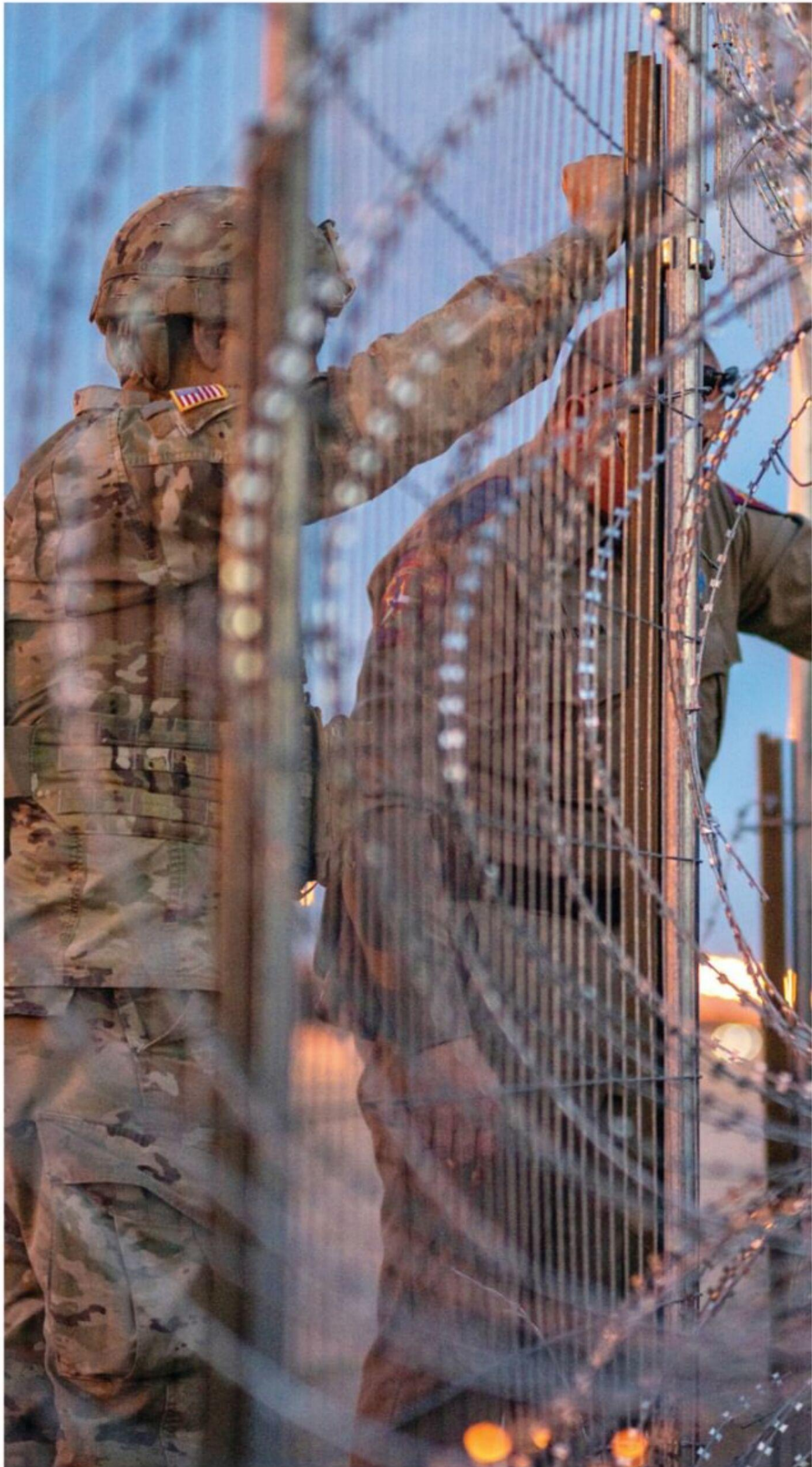
In June, the Vatican invited 107 comedians to meet Pope Francis for a conclave of comedy. It was part of the Vatican's attempt at outreach to artists and performers involved in contemporary culture. Those blessed enough to be there included Jimmy Fallon, Whoopi Goldberg, Chris Rock, Jim Gaffigan, Stephen Colbert, Conan O'Brien, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus. The pontiff told them that with all the trouble the world is engulfed in, they "have the power to spread peace and smiles." He also said, "Can we also laugh at God? Of course—it's not blasphemy, we can, just as we play and joke with the people we love." After the Pope spoke, the stand-ups hopped up for a group shot.

Photograph by Vatican Media/
Getty Images

Wired Shut

In El Paso, Texas, in March, Eliana, a 22-year-old migrant from Venezuela, and her daughter Crismarlees, 3, were prevented from entering the U.S. through an opening in the concertina wire along the Mexico–U.S. border. Five days earlier, nine migrants cut through part of the wire fencing there and fought with the Texas National Guard while hundreds more tried to rush through. More than 200 were arrested, and the National Guard erected a second fence to keep people out. Crossings of migrants at the border are at the lowest level since 2020.

Photograph by Brandon Bell/
Getty Images



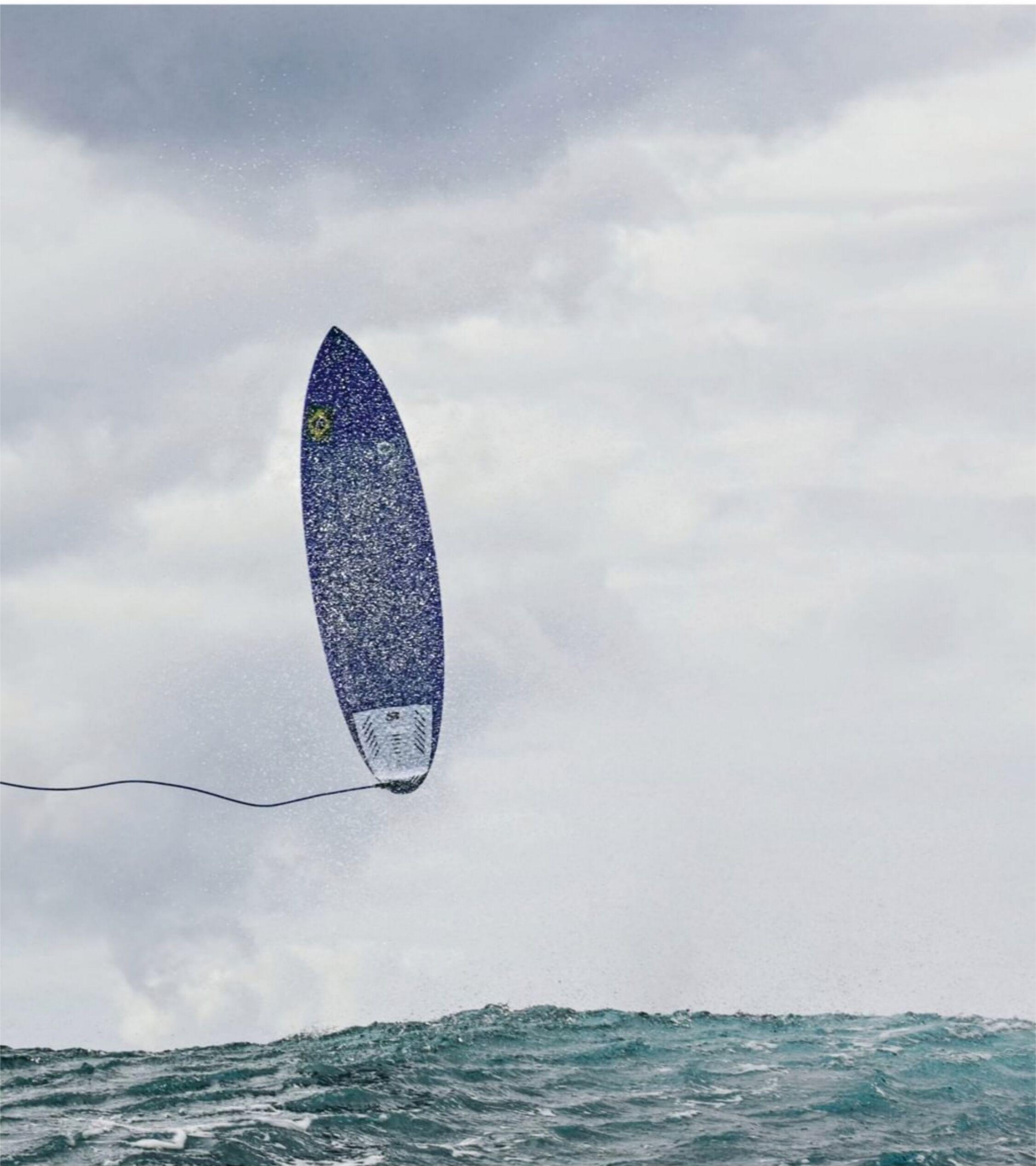


The Olympics

The Seine is not known for surfing, so the Paris competitors headed to Tahiti, French Polynesia, which boasts towering waves and sun-soaked sands. In the fifth heat of the third round of the men's competition, Brazilian surfer Gabriel Medina, 30, shot through a massive barrel wave. As he finished, he kicked off his board and pointed skyward. Agence France-Presse photographer Jérôme Brouillet caught the moment when Medina and his tethered board seemed to float magically in the air. The run earned Medina a 9.9, the best score in Olympic surfing history, and he would go on to win a bronze medal. Brouillet was on a boat nearby shooting photos and noted afterward how “the conditions were perfect, and the waves were taller than we expected.”

Photograph by Jerome Brouillet/
AFP/Getty Images





2024 Images





The Gaza Strip

The Rafah border crossing with Egypt was one of the few spots for aid workers to enter the Gaza Strip to deliver food and medicine to those fleeing the war that started in October 2023. Seeking to rout out and defeat the Hamas militants who started the war, Israel dropped leaflets and sent text messages to residents in the area, ordering those in the southern city of Rafah to evacuate. Air strikes then began, and tanks rolled across the Philadelphi Corridor, a nearly nine-mile buffer zone between Egypt and Gaza. As Israel attacked, these boys east of Rafah watched as smoke from a strike billowed in the distance on May 13. The incursion, which displaced 800,000 people, gave Israel complete control of the crossing. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said taking the area was an important step toward ending Hamas's ability to wage war.

Photograph by AFP/Getty Images





Francis Scott Key Bridge

After the crew lost control of the *Dali* cargo ship on March 26, it crashed into Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge. The structure quickly collapsed, sending 4,000 tons of metal and concrete debris into the Patapsco River. The *Dali* was carrying 56 containers of hazardous materials, and some of the containers breached, with their contents also spilling into the water. The ship and debris from the bridge blocked all shipping traffic in and out of the harbor. This meant that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had to empty the ship's ballast tanks to refloat it, and in May, five tugboats and other vessels slowly moved the *Dali*. By June, the Corps had fully restored the channel for commercial maritime traffic, returning it to its original operational dimensions of 700 feet wide and 50 feet deep.

Photograph by Roberto Schmidt/
AFP/Getty Images

2024 Images





Colorful Nights

The psychedelic lights of the aurora borealis are usually only visible in northern Canada and the Arctic region. But as the sun passes through an approximately 11-year cycle, its magnetic field flips, with north becoming south and south turning into north. The peak of the switch, which happened this year, is known as the solar maximum. As it happens, solar flares shoot out of the sun. When the charged particles reach Earth, they hit the planet's magnetic field, causing geomagnetic storms that result in the aurora and its colorful display. Because of the sun's heightened activity, the shimmering skies were visible as far south as Alabama and New Mexico and, this past May, in the desert near Las Vegas (left).

Photograph by David Becker/ZUMA Press Wire/Shutterstock

A Battle Not Forgotten

Eighty years after Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944, and began retaking Europe from the Nazis, World War II veterans on June 6 paid their respects to those who fought and those who died. Bill Wall, 101, who served as a radio operator and aerial gunner on a B-17 bomber that bombed bridges during the Germans' retreat, threw some roses into the surf at Utah Beach, where nearly 200 men perished. He told those gathered with him that they "probably wouldn't be here if we hadn't been successful." Wall died two months later.

Photograph by Jeremias Gonzalez/AP





HOW DONALD TRUMP WON

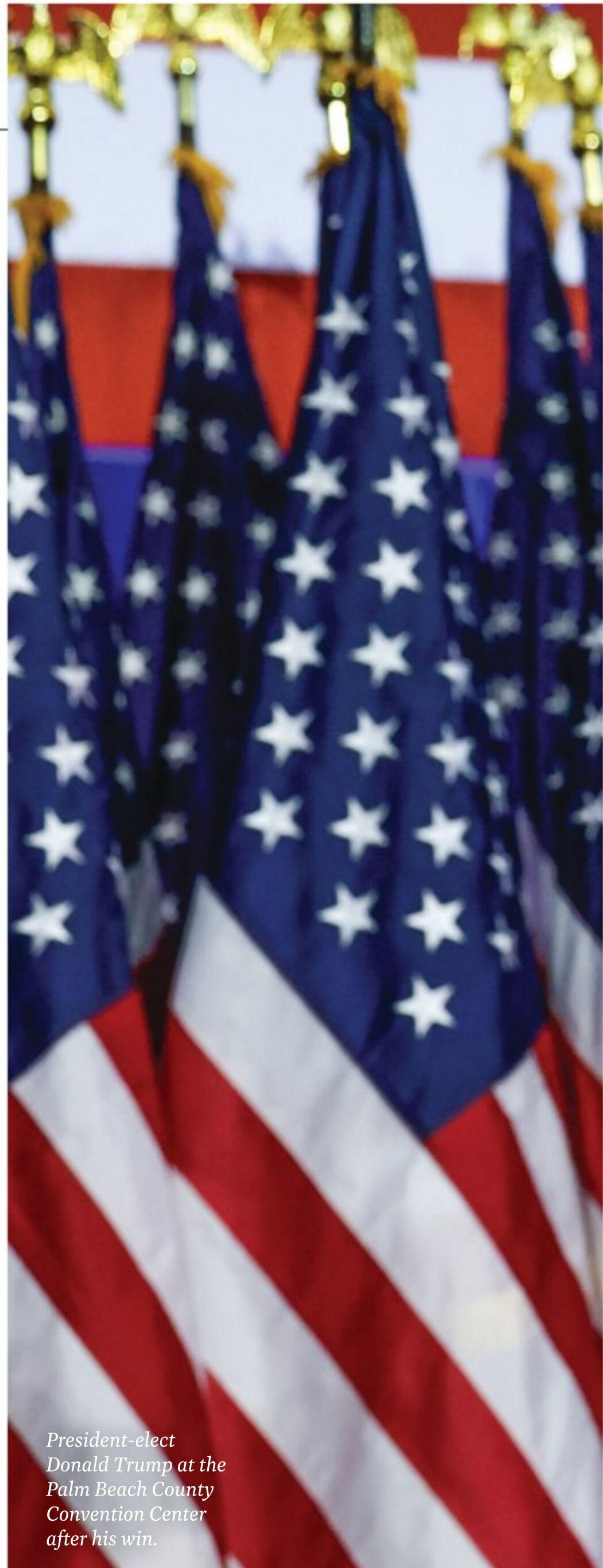
Election Day returned him to the White House and could mean massive changes to America.

BY ERIC CORTELLESA

IT WAS THE MOMENT HE HAD FANTASIZED about for four years. At 2:24 a.m. on November 6, Donald Trump strutted on stage in a Florida ballroom, surrounded by advisers, party leaders, family, and friends. The Associated Press had yet to call the race, but it was clear by then that the voters had swept him back into power. Staring out at a sea of supporters in red MAGA hats, Trump basked in the all-but-certain triumph. “We’ve achieved the most incredible political thing,” he said. “America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate.”

How Trump, 78, won reelection will be the stuff of history books, and already America’s choice can be traced to some key decisions. To Trump’s top aides, the thesis of the campaign could be summed up in a simple slogan: “Max out the men and hold the women.” That meant emphasizing the economy and immigration, which Trump did relentlessly. It meant diverting attention away from the chaos of his first term, the abortion bans he ushered in, and his assault on American democracy four years ago. It meant a campaign that rode the resentment of disenchanted voters and capitalized on the cultural fractures and tribal politics that Trump has long exploited.

Most of all, the outcome can be credited to a singular figure whose return to the White House traced a political arc unlike any in 250 years of American history. Trump left office in 2021 a pariah after inciting a mob of supporters to ransack the U.S. Capitol at the end of an attempt to overturn his electoral defeat. Three years later, he engineered an unprecedented political comeback. Trump effortlessly dispatched his GOP rivals, forced



President-elect Donald Trump at the Palm Beach County Convention Center after his win.



President Joe Biden out of the race, and vanquished Vice President Kamala Harris in a dominant victory that exceeded virtually everyone’s expectations. Along the way, Trump shrugged off a 34-count felony conviction and an array of other criminal indictments.

The scale of his success was stunning. Trump carried North Carolina, flipped Georgia back to his column, and smashed through the Blue Wall. His campaign outperformed its goal of turning out men and holding women. Exit polls showed Trump winning large numbers of Latino men in key battleground states, improving his numbers with that group in Pennsylvania from 27 percent to 42 percent. Nationally, his support among Latino men leaped from 36 percent to 54 percent. Trump also increased his share of voters without a college degree, gained ground with Black voters in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and held steady nationally with white women, shocking Democrats who had expected a post-Dobbs uprising. Among first-time voters, Trump boosted his support from 32 percent four years ago to a 54 percent majority.

He got his share of big breaks. When Trump launched this campaign on the heels of a third straight rebuke in national elections, Republican leaders tried to ignore him. His primary opponents were too timid to take him on. A combination of friendly judges and legal postponements pushed his most damning criminal trials to after the election.

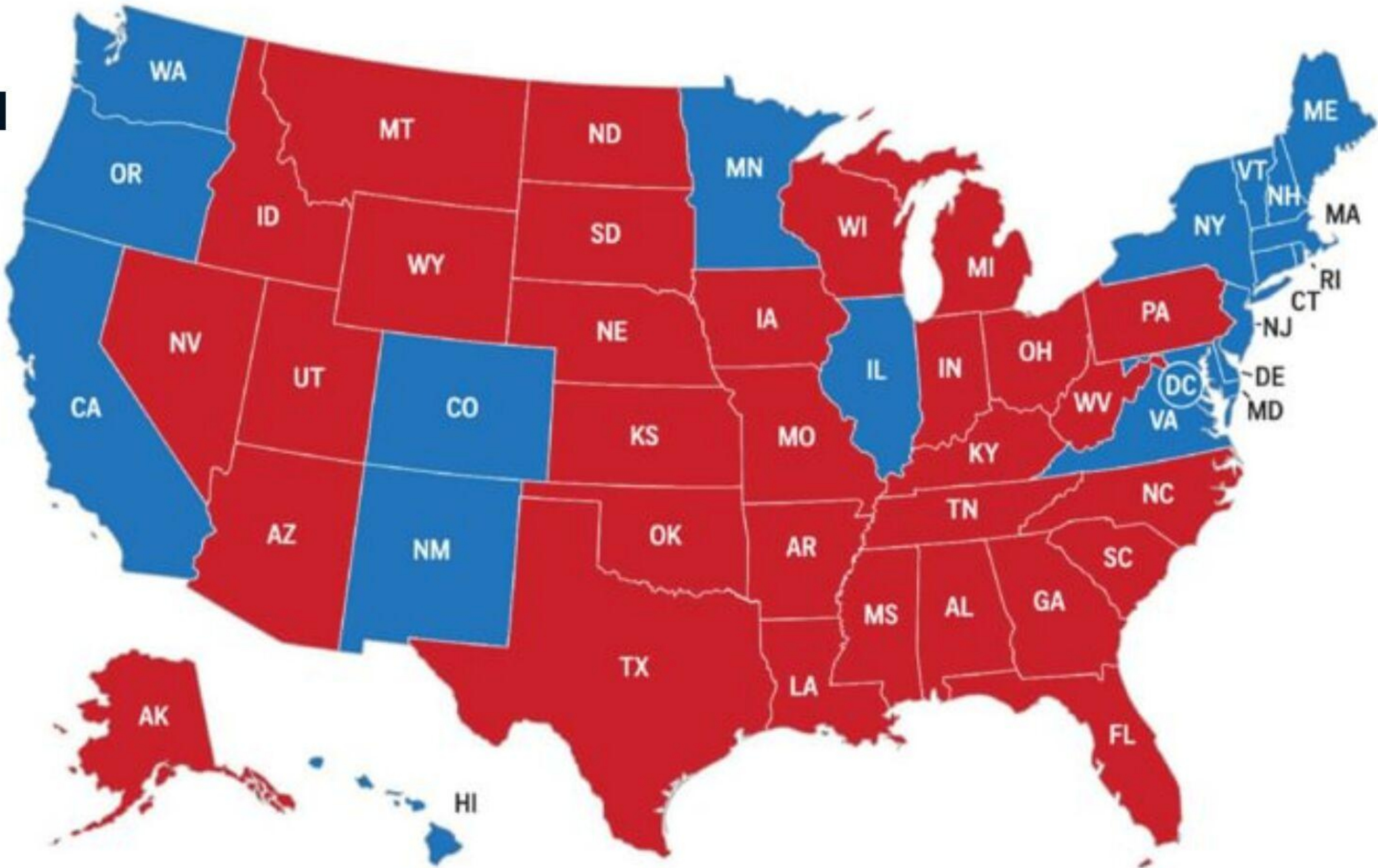
Until July, Trump’s general-election opponent was an unpopular incumbent viewed by many as too old to continue in the job. Biden confirmed those suspicions when he bumbled through their first, and only, debate. The Democrats’ hasty replacement of the first-term president with Harris deprived them of a better-tested candidate who could potentially have rallied broader support. Voters took Trump’s own advanced age and increasingly incoherent trail rhetoric in stride. Much of the country read Trump’s legal woes as part of a larger corrupt conspiracy to deny him, and them, power. And he benefited from a global restiveness in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that has ousted incumbent leaders around the world.

The consequences may be historic. Trump has dominated American politics for nine years now, and after four years of his tumultuous presidency, punctuated by an insurrection, the country chose to reinstall him. Trump campaigned on an authoritarian agenda that would upend America’s democratic norms, and he is already preparing to deliver on it: mass detention and deportations of migrants; revenge against political enemies via the justice system; deploying the military against his own civilians. How far he chooses to go with the power the public has handed him is a question that will shape the fate of the country.

To the MAGA faithful, Trump’s victory is a thrilling vision coming into view. For the less fervent supporters who helped put him over

**2024
Presidential
Election**

National Map



Results as of November 12, 2024



Vice President Kamala Harris conceded her loss during a speech at her alma mater, Howard University, but said, “I do not concede the fight that fueled this campaign.”

the top, his rhetoric is largely bluster in service of reforming a government out of touch with America’s economic and social needs. To the rest of the country and much of the world, a second Trump term looks like a blow to democracy in the U.S. and beyond. That split screen will animate American discourse for the next four years. The nation is more polarized than at any point since the Civil War. But soon, there will be at least one thing that binds us all together: Come January 20, we will all be living in Trump’s America.

The first, and most aggressive, agenda item is expected to be immigration and the border. In an April interview with TIME, Trump said he plans to use executive power to begin mass deportations of undocumented migrants, ordering the National Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and federal law enforcement to conduct raids. Tom Homan, a former Trump official now affiliated with Project 2025, is expected to lead the effort, according to campaign sources.

At the same time, top Trump advisers tell TIME, there will be a massive purge of the federal bureaucracy. The most satisfying part of that to Trump, they say, will be firing Jack Smith, the special counsel prosecuting him on charges of willfully mishandling classified information and

conspiring to overthrow the 2020 election.

Trump’s most controversial moves are all but certain to face significant legal and political fights. He has vowed on the campaign trail to pick an attorney general who will investigate and prosecute his political rivals and critics. Trump will be emboldened by a Supreme Court ruling last summer that granted U.S. presidents potential immunity from some criminal prosecution for official acts. Between Trump’s psychological disposition, his vows to seek revenge on his adversaries, and the removal of many of the guardrails that hindered him in a first term, scholars of authoritarianism see a nation on the brink of crisis.

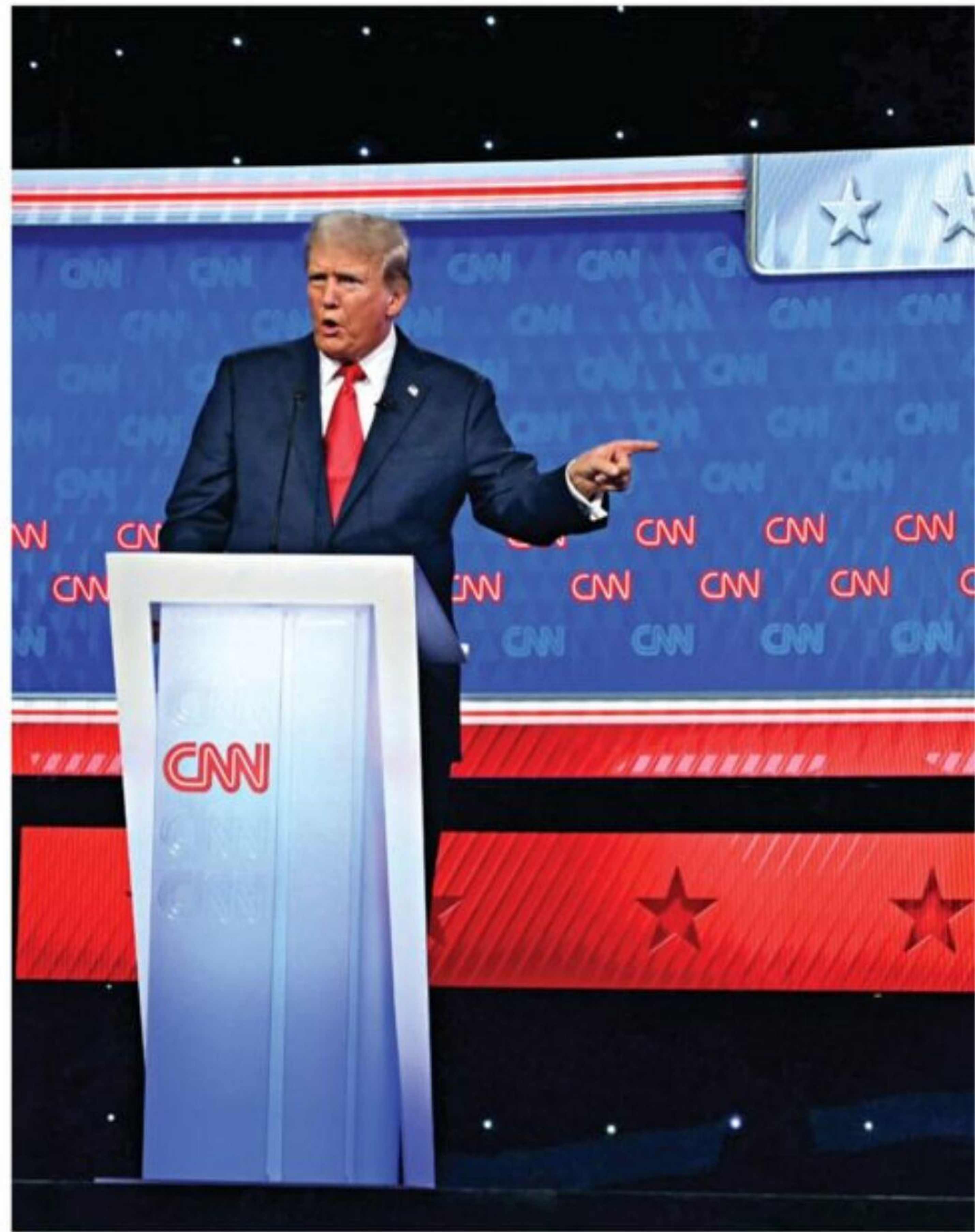
Ultimately, the election is as much a judgment on the American people as it is on the man they have returned to office. Trump’s comeback isn’t random. By building a social and political movement that gave him coercive power over the Republican Party, he systematically demolished many of the nation’s long-standing norms, ushering in a cohort of lackeys who will enable his most autocratic impulses. He will enter his second term committed to creating a governing environment with few restraints on his power. He did not hide any of this. It was what the American people decided they wanted.

PRESIDENT BIDEN DROPS OUT OF THE RACE

Less than a month after his disastrous debate with Donald Trump, Joe Biden stepped aside so Vice President Kamala Harris could make a run for the White House.

THE DEBATE WENT VERY BADLY FOR JOE Biden. For 90 minutes, the 46th president of the United States slogged through answers with a performance that even his closest advisers admitted was a disaster. For much of it, Biden appeared every bit the 81-year-old grandfather he is, stammering with a thin voice through unintelligible arguments and often staring blankly, mouth agape. He froze up repeatedly. When fielding a question about dealing with the national debt, his answer was incomprehensible: “We’d be able to help make sure that all those things we need to do—child-care, elder care, making sure that we continue to strengthen our healthcare system, making sure that we’re able to make every single solitary person eligible for what I’ve been able to do with the—with, with, with the COVID. Excuse me, with dealing with everything we have to do with—look, if—we finally beat Medicare.” Donald Trump quickly responded, “Boy, he’s right. He did beat Medicare. He beat it to death, and he is destroying Medicare.”

The moment the June 27 Atlanta face-off ended, more than simple panic coursed through the Democratic Party, top to bottom. “What the actual f--- is happening?” one Democratic fundraiser texted. From progressive to pragmatist, the verdict among Democrats was perhaps the most united the party’s upper ranks have been in decades. Almost immediately, Democrats started asking whether and how Biden could be convinced to bow out, for the good of the party, for the nation, and for the candidate himself.



Biden loyalists rushed into the breach. Vice President Kamala Harris did a round of late-night cable hits, making her best effort at staving off party activists’ dreams of ditching Biden, and maybe Harris as well. Biden’s team publicly insisted that the night was just one of many and that the candidate was absolutely, 100 percent up for another four years. But the reality remained: Everyone in America who tuned in to the debate could see for themselves how Biden had aged. He was already locked into a neck-and-neck race with Trump, and Biden’s path to victory suddenly seemed to be turning into a dead end. For all the talk about the most successful first-term agenda ever and a history-defying midterm election, Biden’s team spent the wee hours after the debate trying to talk Democrats off a ledge.

No one can say that what happened was unexpected. Voters had been consistent in telling pollsters they were worried about the ages of both candidates. Almost two-thirds of the nation thought both Trump at 78 and Biden at 81 were too old for the job, according to a poll by ABC News/Ipsos. And



From left: Biden and Trump debated on June 27; Biden announced on July 21 why he would not seek a second term; Harris accepted her party's nomination on August 22.

it's not as though no one had been trying to warn of this exact scenario. Senior Democrats had been telling their peers that Biden was missing a step and not the best version of himself.

The Trump campaign, for their part, seemed delighted. "Democrats are stuck with Joe Biden whether they like it or not," said Alex Bruesewitz, a Trump-allied GOP consultant. Trump's team made the most of it in the wake of the debate, with Bruesewitz noting, "It's never been more clear that President Donald Trump's strength is needed back in the White House."

The question was how to get Biden to step aside. The rules of the Democratic Party made it almost impossible to replace him unless he withdrew from the race. Dozens of the party's elected officials urged Biden to end his campaign. He stubbornly defied those calls, bristling at the uprising and determined to forge ahead. Delivering a speech in North Carolina the day after the debate, he told the crowd, "I know I'm not a young man, to state the obvious.... I don't debate as well as I used to. But I know what I

do know: I know how to tell the truth. I know right from wrong. I know how to do this job. I know how to get things done. I know what millions of Americans know: When you get knocked down, you get back up."

Yet the pressure was on, and with Biden trailing in battleground states and blue states turning purple, Trump only appeared stronger, with an Associated Press poll soon finding that 7 in 10 adults thought Biden should withdraw from the race.

Then, on July 21, with concerns among Democrats about his dwindling reelection chances, Biden dropped out, writing on social media, "It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your president." He then threw his support behind Harris, posting on X, "Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats—it's time to come together and beat Trump. Let's do this."

Harris quickly accepted the endorsement, with the Democratic National Convention roundly nominating her on August 20.



TWO ATTEMPTS TO KILL THE PRESIDENT

Donald Trump was wounded once and then faced a second assassination attempt, and the head of the Secret Service resigned.

A WEEK BEFORE DONALD TRUMP APPEARED in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, Thomas Matthew Crooks signed up to attend the rally and searched on the internet about the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy by Lee Harvey Oswald, asking, “How far away was Oswald from Kennedy?” The killer was 265 feet away, and on July 12, Crooks went to the Clairton Sportsmen’s Club, his regular shooting location since 2023, where he practiced on the rifle range. The morning of the rally, he stopped at a local gun store and purchased 50 rounds of ammunition for his AR-15 semiautomatic rifle.

Dressed in a T-shirt and cargo shorts, the 20-year-old recent graduate of Pittsburgh’s Community College of Allegheny County arrived at the Butler Farm Show grounds, which he had visited a few days before, at around 10 a.m. on July 13. He left after about an hour, then returned at 3:45 p.m., when he flew a drone over the site.

As thousands streamed in to hear Trump’s speech, Crooks sat just outside the grounds on a picnic bench alongside some industrial buildings, where he was spotted just before 4:30 p.m. He attracted attention because he didn’t try to

enter through security checkpoints, and he was photographed by law enforcement at around 5:15 p.m., not long before he was spotted handling a range finder used to determine the distance to the podium where Trump planned to speak. There were law enforcement personnel from multiple agencies at the rally, and Secret Service heard from local officers that there was a “suspicious male” present, but they quickly lost track of him.

Trump took to the stage at 6:03 p.m. As “God Bless the U.S.A.” blared from the public address system, he joyfully commented about how “this is a big, big, beautiful crowd.” Crooks meanwhile made his way up and across the roofs of several buildings 400 feet from the podium. The police heard from attendees about someone on top of the warehouse. One of the officers climbed up. As he pulled himself above the lip of the building, Crooks pointed his gun at him, and he dropped back to the ground. The crowd yelled, “He’s got a gun,” “He’s on the roof,” and at 6:11 p.m., Crooks started firing at Trump.

At that moment, just as Trump, 78, turned to look at a chart on illegal immigration, he turned his head. A bullet clipped his right ear. He winced, reached for his ear, and fell behind the lectern. Secret Service agents yelled out, “Get down! Get down! Get down! Get down!” and four agents tackled him. A local police sniper had hit Crooks’s rifle, disrupting his aim, before a Secret Service Counter Assault Team agent killed Crooks, but not before his half-dozen other shots killed firefighter Corey Comperatore, 50, and also wounded two others in the crowd. When the all-safe call was made, Trump was helped up. Blood trickled down his face. As the Secret Service struggled to get him off the stage, he raised his fist and said “fight” three times.

Biden spoke with Trump soon after the shooting, and in an address to the nation on July 14, the president implored Americans to “remember, while we may disagree, we are not enemies.” Four days later, with a bandage covering his ear, Trump took to the stage at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. He recounted in detail what had happened: “I heard a loud whizzing sound and felt something hit me really, really hard. On my right ear.... There was blood pouring everywhere, and yet in a certain way I felt very safe because I had God on my side.” The crowd cheered.

As of now, the FBI have not identified a motive or ideology for the would-be assassin, who was a reg-



Secret Service chief Kimberly Cheatle testified about her agency’s mishandling of the first assassination attempt. Opposite: Agents helped a wounded Trump.

istered Republican but had made a \$15 donation to a Democratic political action committee. Questions were also quickly asked about Secret Service failures protecting Trump. On July 22, director Kimberly Cheatle appeared before Congress to discuss her agency’s record. In a contentious hearing, she did not answer specific questions because of ongoing investigations but admitted that what had happened in Butler was the agency’s “most significant operational failure in decades.” The following day, Cheatle resigned, and deputy director Ronald Rowe Jr. took over as acting director.

With Trump’s protection increased, he hit the campaign trail with his new running mate, Ohio senator JD Vance. Then, on September 15, Trump headed out to play some golf at his club in West Palm Beach, Florida. Ryan Wesley Routh, a disillusioned Trump supporter, had already been on the edge of the course since 2 a.m., hiding in the bushes near the sixth hole.

Routh had with him in his sniper’s nest a semi-automatic rifle, ceramic plates capable of stopping small arms fire, a GoPro, and some food, according to the FBI. As Trump made his way along the course about 1:30 p.m., a Secret Service agent scouting ahead spotted a rifle barrel jutting from the bushes and fired. Routh fled and was captured 45 minutes later by the Martin County Sheriff’s Office.

Charged with attempted assassination of the president, Routh pleaded not guilty to the charge. He also faces other charges, and if convicted, he could receive a life sentence.

EXPULSION FROM THE HOUSE

George Santos

Rep. George Santos of New York arrived in Congress in January 2023 with an enviable résumé. He graduated from Baruch College, where he was a star volleyball player; earned an MBA at New York University; and worked as a project manager for Goldman Sachs. He even helped save 2,500 cats and dogs through Friends of Pets United. But questions about his past quickly emerged, and it turned out that most of his claims were patently false, from his education and jobs to the assertion that his mother died at the World Trade Center on September 11. Investigations soon uncovered that Santos had spent campaign funds on everything from personal travel to Botox treatments. Santos, 36, attempted to deflect the scrutiny, telling Fox News, “I’m not a fraud.” Yet his fabulist life turned into an uncomfortable circus for his fellow Republicans and became a wellspring for late-night monologues. In December 2023, the House expelled him, and in August 2024, Santos pleaded guilty to wire fraud and aggravated identity theft. He faces a minimum of two years in prison.



MAJOR SECURITY BREACH

Jack Teixeira

Jack Teixeira liked to spend time in a chat group on the online platform Discord, and in the summer of 2022, the specialist with the 102nd Intelligence Wing at Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, started sharing highly classified briefing documents from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, intelligence material on the war in the Ukraine, and documents on Iran’s nuclear program. In December 2022, Teixeira, now 22, boasted that he was “breaking a ton” of regulations but didn’t care “what they say I can or can’t share.” The government, though, did care, and arrested him in April 2023. The Pentagon began an internal review of what has proven to be one of the worst intelligence breaches in a decade and took steps to tighten access to national security information, acknowledging that Teixeira’s actions revealed a glaring blind spot in the U.S. security clearance process. Teixeira pleaded guilty in March 2024 to six counts of “willful retention and transmission of national defense information.” As part of the deal, the Justice Department will not pursue any further charges against him under the Espionage Act.

CHURCH AND STATE

Ten Commandments

In June, a few days before Gov. Jeff Landry signed a law requiring every classroom in Louisiana—from kindergartens to college chemistry labs—to post a copy of the Ten Commandments, he said he knew it would be controversial, noting, “I can’t wait to be sued.” A week later, a group of families did just that, filing a suit in U.S. District Court in Baton Rouge stating that the law “unconstitutionally pressures students into religious observance, veneration, and adoption of

the state’s favored religious scripture.” Louisiana is the first state to implement such rules since 1980, when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a similar Kentucky law. Landry is hoping the current conservative tilt of the bench makes it open to his belief that faith and government can coexist. In 2021, the court ruled unanimously that a Catholic group in Philadelphia could refuse to work with same-sex couples on fostering children. Then in 2022, by a vote of 6–3, it determined that Maine could not block religious schools from receiving state subsidies. Both rulings are clear signs that the tablets might stay in schools.





FALL OF A SENATOR

Robert Menendez

During his 18 years in the U.S. Senate, New Jersey Democratic senator Robert Menendez rose to become one of the chamber's most powerful members, chairing the Foreign Relations Committee. Yet in 2015, he was indicted on federal corruption and bribery charges. His 2017 trial ended in a mistrial when the jury couldn't reach a unanimous verdict, and Menendez won reelection the next year. At that time, he started surreptitiously helping the Egyptian government. Menendez accepted bribes and even a Mercedes-Benz C-300 convertible in exchange for softening America's relations with that

nation so it could receive millions in military aid. In 2022, the FBI raided his home in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, and found more than \$100,000 in gold bars and over \$480,000 in cash.

Charged with using his position in Congress to shield those he worked with from prosecution and to assist the Egyptian government, Menendez, 70, was found guilty in July on 16 counts, including bribery and extortion. His wife, Nadine, has also been charged, but her trial has been postponed while she recovers from cancer treatment. "This case has always been about shocking levels of corruption," said U.S. Attorney Damian Williams. "This wasn't politics as usual; this was politics for profit."



CAMPUS UNREST

The war in Israel and the Palestinian territories played out at American colleges as the Middle East conflict became a flash point about bias and the extent of freedom of speech.

THE DAY AFTER HAMAS FIGHTERS SLAUGHTERED about 1,200 Israelis and foreigners and took 250 hostages on October 7, 2023, the Harvard Undergraduate Palestine Solidarity Committee issued a letter signed by more than 30 other Harvard student organizations saying that they “hold the Israeli regime entirely responsible for all unfolding violence.” Jewish students reported harassment on campuses across the country, with the U.S. Department of Education investigating such schools as Cornell University for cases of both antisemitism and Islamophobia. Israel’s subsequent incursion into Gaza roiled American colleges throughout the academic year. In November, Brandeis University’s National Students for Justice in Palestine openly voiced approval of Hamas—which the U.S. has designated as a terrorist organization that calls for the elimi-

nation of Israel—and the school banned the local chapter, with president Ron Liebowitz writing that Brandeis supports “free speech, not hate speech.”

Many schools, though, vacillated when it came to how best to respond to the spread of campus protests, as well as to harassment of students. On December 5, 2023, presidents Claudine Gay of Harvard, Sally Kornbluth of MIT, and M. Elizabeth Magill of the University of Pennsylvania were summoned before Congress to answer questions about the events unfolding at their schools. Facing withering questioning, the presidents wavered in their responses about whether their institutions would discipline students who called for the genocide of Jews. When Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York repeatedly asked whether “calling for the genocide of Jews violates Harvard’s rules of bullying and harassment,” Gay said it “depends on the context,” to which Stefanik replied, “It does not



Protests and counterprotests at American college campuses, from left: A Gaza solidarity encampment at Columbia University; students listened to a pro-Palestinian educational rally at the University of Texas at Austin; supporters of Israel surrounded by pro-Palestinian counter-demonstrators at UCLA.

depend on the context. The answer is yes.” Following the testimony, Gay attempted to clarify her comments, saying that calling for the genocide of Jews is “vile” and that “Those who threaten our Jewish students will be held to account.” Both Gay and Magill resigned soon after.

As the war dragged on and tens of thousands of Palestinians died, pro-Palestinian activists increased their activities and called on schools to divest from Israel. By April, protesters set up encampments at Harvard, Northwestern, the University of Texas at Austin, and dozens of other schools. At the University of Michigan, protesters carrying Palestinian flags chanted “Long live the intifada,” an Arabic term for uprising and armed resistance. Surveys showed that Jewish and Muslim students alike felt fearful on campus. Signs similar to the ZIONISTS NOT ALLOWED one that went up at the University of California Santa Barbara’s multicultural center appeared across the country.

Pro-Palestinian protesters occupied buildings at California’s Cal Poly Humboldt campus. When they refused to leave, the police arrested more than 30 of them. At the University of Southern California Los Angeles, police arrested more than 90 people on charges of trespassing. And at Boston’s Emerson College, more than 100 people were arrested. At UCLA, a fight raged between protesters and counterprotesters, with the police taking hours to quell the violence. Students, professors, and others com-

plained that the right to free speech was being curtailed and schools were failing to protect students.

One of the more prominent encampments appeared at Columbia University. Members called out, “From the River to the Sea,” a phrase that many interpret as a call for the eradication of Israel. In an open letter to students, the school insisted that “Chants, signs, taunts, and social media posts from our own students that mock and threaten to ‘kill’ Jewish people are totally unacceptable.” Soon after, the police and activists clashed, with more than 100 arrested. By May, most of the encampments across the nation were cleared.

Some universities, like Columbia and Brown, lost the support of philanthropists and alumni who were appalled at how the schools responded to the crisis. Those like Harvard also experienced a drop in college applications.

By the summer, charges against many who were arrested had been dropped. Hoping not to repeat what went on during the spring semester, universities clarified as well as adopted new guidelines and restrictions covering speech and protest on campus. Many schools have also set in place rules that limit protests to specific times, and places including UCLA have banned encampments. University of Virginia spokesman Brian Coy stated that a school “is an institution of higher education, not a campground.”

Even so, on the first anniversary of October 7, there were numerous marches at many schools.



POLICING THE COURT

A spate of questionable actions by the high court's justices has renewed calls for an enforceable code of ethics.

FLAGS FLOWN UPSIDE DOWN AS A SYMBOL of Donald Trump's "Stop the Steal" movement were a common sight following the 2020 election. Even so, one fluttering in Virginia drew special notice. It waved at the home of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito. Alito's Jersey Shore home also flew an Appeal to Heaven flag, like those carried by some of the protestors who stormed the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. Alito denied responsibility for the flag raising, writing, "I was not even aware of the upside-down flag until it was called to my attention." He went on to blame his wife, Martha-Ann, whom he said "is fond of flying flags." Alito then refused to recuse himself from

cases related to Trump and the January 6 attacks.

The U.S. Supreme Court has long policed itself for ethics violations. Recent activities by justices like Alito, though, have raised concerns about their impartiality and actions and has brought about calls for stricter controls. Justice Clarence Thomas has been the focus of numerous reports revealing that over the past two decades he accepted gifts and travel from Republican megadonor Harlan Crow to places like Indonesia and aboard a luxury yacht, as well as tuition payments for a Thomas family member. Many of the gifts, valued at an estimated \$4.2 million by a judicial reform group, were not revealed on financial disclosure forms and amounted to

10 times those received by the other justices. At the same time, Thomas's wife, Ginni, took part in efforts to overturn the 2020 election, with Senate majority whip Dick Durbin calling her "a political operative who regularly works with right-wing groups on issues being litigated before the Court."

Meanwhile, Justice Sonia Sotomayor's staff reportedly pressed public institutions where she was scheduled to speak to purchase copies of her children's books, including *Just Ask!*, or her memoir *My Beloved World*, which have earned her almost \$4 million. The court has denied the claim. Shortly after joining the court in 2017, Justice Neil Gorsuch sold 40 acres of real estate he co-owned in Granby, Colorado, to Brian Duffy, the head of Greenberg Traurig, a major law firm with cases before the court. Gorsuch did not name the purchaser on his financial disclosure forms and has not directly commented on the issue. Chief Justice John Roberts's wife, Jane, has earned more than \$10 million by helping to match attorneys with law firms, a few of which have cases before the court.

Unlike with members of Congress, there are few restrictions on gifts the justices can receive. The justices did adopt their first-ever code of conduct in 2023, which stated that they should avoid "impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all activities" and engage in outside activities "consistent with [their] obligations." Yet the code lacks clear enforcement mechanisms. The main avenue for addressing serious ethical breaches remains impeachment. That has only happened once, back in 1804, when Justice Samuel Chase was accused of refusing to dismiss biased jurors and excluding or limiting defense witnesses in two politically sensitive cases. The Senate acquitted Chase the following year, and he continued to serve on the court until his death in 1811.

In June, Democratic senator Durbin, who for more than a decade has been seeking an enforceable code, watched as Senate Republicans blocked such a bill, with Sen. Lindsey Graham calling it an "unconstitutional overreach," one that would "undermine the court's ability to operate effectively." The following month, in a reference to the perceived bias on the court, President Joe Biden penned an op-ed in the *Washington Post* in which he called for a binding code of conduct, noting that such rules are "common sense," and that "every other federal judge is bound by an enforceable code of conduct, and there is no reason for the Supreme Court to be exempt."

THE PRESIDENT IN COURT

Trump's Legal Woes

When the U.S. Supreme Court in July gave presidents broad immunity for official acts performed while in office, it severely narrowed the scope of one of special prosecutor Jack Smith's cases against Donald Trump, which in 2023 charged the president with seeking to overturn the 2020 election and actions that led to the 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol. In August 2024, Smith streamlined and refiled his case, insisting Trump acted as a private citizen when he "resorted to crimes" and therefore is not entitled to immunity from prosecution. Trump has pleaded not guilty to those charges. Following Trump's election win, Smith asked U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan to pause the case so his office can decide how to proceed. It was granted.

In May, Trump was convicted of 34 counts of falsifying business records, the first time a president has been found guilty of a felony. The case, brought by Manhattan district attorney Alvin Bragg, centered on Trump's \$130,000 payoff to porn star Stormy Daniels just prior to the 2016 election. The payment, which was unlawfully disguised as legal expenses, was made to prevent Daniels from discussing a sexual relationship she'd had with Trump. His September sentencing, though, was put on hold until after the November election. Trump is expected to appeal the conviction.

Trump is also accused of illegally retaining classified documents after leaving office and keeping them at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, whom he nominated, dismissed those charges in July, ruling that prosecutor Smith had not been properly appointed. Cannon's opinion runs counter to decades of rulings by other federal courts, and Smith has appealed that decision.

Meanwhile, Trump's Georgia election subversion case was delayed over an appeal to the decision that allowed Fulton County district attorney Fani Willis to remain on the case after it came out that she had had a romantic relationship with Nathan Wade, the former special prosecutor whom she hired for the case.





HURRICANE HELENE

A Devastating Storm

Hurricane Helene crossed into Florida on September 26 with record-breaking storm surges and 140 mph winds, then went barreling at least 500 miles through the Southeast, reaching into western North Carolina. The category 4 storm left behind devastating destruction: massive flooding, washed-out roads, cut-off communities, toppled trees, destroyed homes, and electricity knocked out to millions. It blew away Susan Sauls Hartway's home in Florida's Big Bend. She told the Associated Press, "It's gone. I don't know where it's at. I can't find it." Helene killed at least 232 people in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and the Carolinas. Many are still missing, making Helene the second-deadliest

storm to hit the U.S. mainland in 50 years, after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

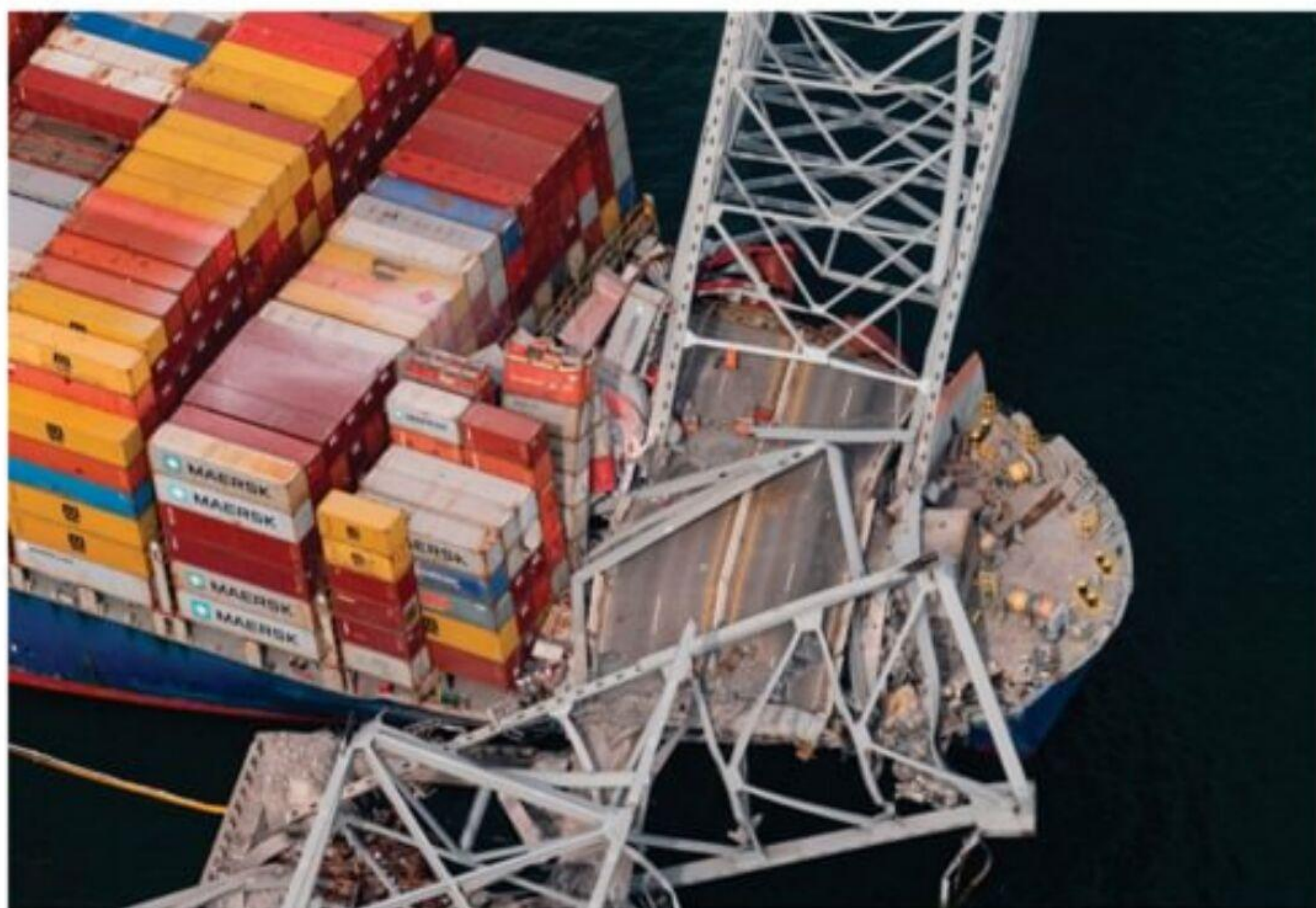
The damage could surpass \$50 billion, and as President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris got a firsthand look at the havoc, the president praised the Democratic governor of North Carolina and the Republican governor of South Carolina for their response: "[W]e put politics aside.... Our job is to help as many people as we can as quickly as we can and as thoroughly as we can." By mid October, the administration had approved \$1.8 billion in FEMA aid for those affected by Helene, as well Hurricane Milton, a category 3 that hit Florida on October 9 and killed at least 24. Milton is also expected to cost \$50 billion or more.

A FLOATING DISASTER

The Francis Scott Key Bridge

Ten hours before the *Dali* headed out of the Port of Baltimore on March 26, a crew member accidentally closed an engine exhaust damper, causing the ship to lose power. After it was turned back on, the Singaporean-flagged cargo ship blacked out again. The crew started it up, and at about 12:30 a.m., two tugboats started to help the ship out of the port. Soon untethered, it made its way under its own power down the channel. The engine and steering then shut down, and the ship, which is about as long as three football fields, could not be stopped. As it drifted toward the Francis Scott Key Bridge, the crew made a Mayday call, and traffic was stopped along Interstate 695 before the vessel collided with a supporting pier of the 47-year-old span. Six construction workers on the bridge were killed as the span crumbled into the river.

The damage cut off a major highway and trapped ships in one of the nation's busiest ports. It took nearly two months to haul the *Dali* away, and shipping traffic was fully restored in June. Rebuilding the bridge is expected to take four years, and the shipowners agreed to pay the federal government \$102 million in cleanup costs to settle a lawsuit. The state of Maryland has a pending suit.



GUILTY PLEA

Julian Assange

When WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in 2010 released hundreds of thousands of classified documents relating to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the activist said that the material was in the public interest. The U.S. government said the leaks jeopardized national security and sought to extradite Assange to the U.S. for trial.

Assange spent seven years as an asylum seeker in London's Ecuadorian embassy. When that stay ended in 2019, he fought extradition from a London prison, where he was held on a separate charge. In June, Assange struck a deal with the U.S. Justice Department. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to obtain and disclose national defense information in violation of the U.S. Espionage Act, and he was allowed to return to his native Australia. Not everyone was pleased. Former vice president Mike Pence wrote on X that Assange had endangered the lives of American troops and "should have been prosecuted."

A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Gun Violence

The Centers for Disease Control reported that more than 46,000 Americans died from gun violence in 2023. The number of people killed each year climbed by nearly 43 percent between 2010 and 2020, according to the National Institute for Health Care Management. Hoping to stop the carnage, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy in June declared gun violence a public health crisis. "People want to be able to walk through their neighborhoods and be safe," Murthy told the Associated Press.

Murthy called for a ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines for civilian use—along with universal background checks for purchasing guns—and hopes that his efforts will have a similar impact as the 1964 report on the dangers of smoking, which reduced the use of tobacco. Congress has long resisted such recommendations, even in the face of many mass shootings. The National Rifle Association attacked Murthy's call, with Randy Kozuch, the executive director of the NRA's lobbying arm, writing on X, "This is an extension of the Biden Administration's war on law-abiding gun owners."





DEMOLISHING DAMS

Letting Fish Swim Free

Starting in 1918, four dams went up along 420 miles of Oregon's Klamath River. While they generated electricity for residents, they also severely disrupted the life cycles of the Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout by preventing them from making their way from stream beds to the Pacific, where they grow before returning to their birth streams to reproduce.

The project caused a sharp falloff of the fish population, which is a source of both spiritual and cultural importance for local native tribes, who along with environmental groups have long called for the removal of the dams.

In November 2022, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decommissioned the dams. In August, workers breached the final dams

along a key section of the Klamath. This will allow the river to return to its natural flow and let the salmon range freely in some spots for the first time in more than 100 years. It is expected that over the next 30 years, the salmon population will increase by as much as 80 percent.

The demolition of the Klamath dams was the largest dam removal project in U.S. history. Over the past century, more than 2,000 dams have been removed. Amy Bowers Cordalis, a member of the Yurok tribe and the tribe's attorney who for more than 20 years fought for the end of the Klamath dams, cried as she watched the water flow back into the river. "It was surreal. It was so emotional. I felt so hopeful and so satisfied that we have restored this river," she told the Associated Press. "And looking at it, you could almost hear the river crying, 'I am free, I am free.'"



FREE AT LAST

A Journalist Comes Home

While covering the Russian invasion of Ukraine in March 2023, Evan Gershkovich was arrested in Russia and accused baselessly of gathering “secret information” for the CIA on a Russian tank factory. In July, a court convicted the *Wall Street Journal* reporter and sentenced him to 16 years in a penal colony. The Biden administration worked hard to gain Gershkovich’s release. In the largest post-Soviet era prisoner exchange, the U.S. and Russia on August 1

swapped two dozen people, including Gershkovich, Alsu Kurmasheva (a Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalist convicted of spreading false information about the Russian military), the Pulitzer Prize-winning dissident Vladimir Kara-Murza, and some associates of the late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny. Among the eight people returned to Moscow in the multinational prisoner swap were a Russian assassin and a couple who had been living in Slovenia as sleeper agents.



A SHOT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

Musket Balls

When Massachusetts militiamen confronted British Troops on April 19, 1775, at North Bridge in Concord, they exchanged fire with redcoats and set off the American Revolution in what poet Ralph Waldo Emerson immortalized in “Concord Hymn” as the “shot heard around the world.” In August, less than a year before the battle’s 250th anniversary, the National Park Service announced the discovery of five lead-cast musket balls dug up near where the battle began (it then stretched over the next eight hours to the Charlestown area of Boston, killing or wounding 96 militiamen and 273 British soliders). The balls range from .40-caliber to .70-caliber, indicating that they were used by the militiamen, who brought their own weapons and ammo to the fight. “To be able to pull that out of the ground and know that we’re the first ones to touch that since somebody else was ramming it down the muzzle of their gun 250 years ago is one of those things that sends shivers all over your body,” said park ranger Jarrad Fuoss, who was there when the balls were uncovered.

UKRAINE ON THE ATTACK

The nearly three-year-long war saw Ukraine taking the fighting into Russian territory.

UKRAINIAN TANKS AND ARMORED VEHICLES poured easily through the lightly guarded border of Russia's Kursk region on August 6. Inexperienced Russian conscripts proved no match for some 10,000 battle-hardened Ukrainian troops. As 120,000 Russians evacuated the area, the Ukrainian military said it captured 74 communities after the first week of fighting and took control of 400 square miles of Russia. A clearly pleased Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky said the attack was to take the more than two-year war "into the aggressor's territory." The first invasion of Russia since World War II surprised Russian military leaders and ended that nation's narrative that the war had left their nation untouched.

Russian president Vladimir Putin dismissed the importance of the attack. Yet the tenor of the war, which has turned into a grinding stalemate, appears to have changed. While Russia's military far exceeds that of Ukraine's, that nation has found innovative and less expensive ways to attack its more powerful foe, a strategy that brings to mind the Soviet Union's decade-long quagmire in Afghanistan. It is a strategic move to take the offensive in a war that has seen the death of an estimated 80,000 Ukrainians and some 200,000 Russian troops, and also because of fears that the West is losing interest in Ukraine's struggle and might diminish its support.

Ukraine lacks a proper navy, so it started building seaborne drones. At a cost of \$200,000 each and called MAGURA V5 in honor of a Slavic warrior goddess, the kamikaze-like crafts are packed with explosives and ram into enemy vessels. Starting in May 2023, they began damaging and destroying some two dozen Russian warships, a third of that



nation's Black Sea Fleet, according to the Ukrainian military. "The only thing the Russians understand is the language of force," said Zelensky's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak. "They will not stop the war unless they feel the danger of continuing to fight us." As a sign of their success, in March, Putin sacked Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov, head of the Russian navy.

The Ukrainians have similarly been successful at launching inexpensive air drones. The \$500 drones can not only guide bombing attacks but track enemy forces. In September, they started dispatching "dragon drones." These devices hover over tanks and bunkers and spray them with thermite, a mixture of aluminum powder and a metal oxide that burns at about 4,000 degrees, spews



Clockwise from left: The border following Ukraine's invasion; Ukrainian soldiers in Russia; a Ukrainian MAGURA V5 drone.

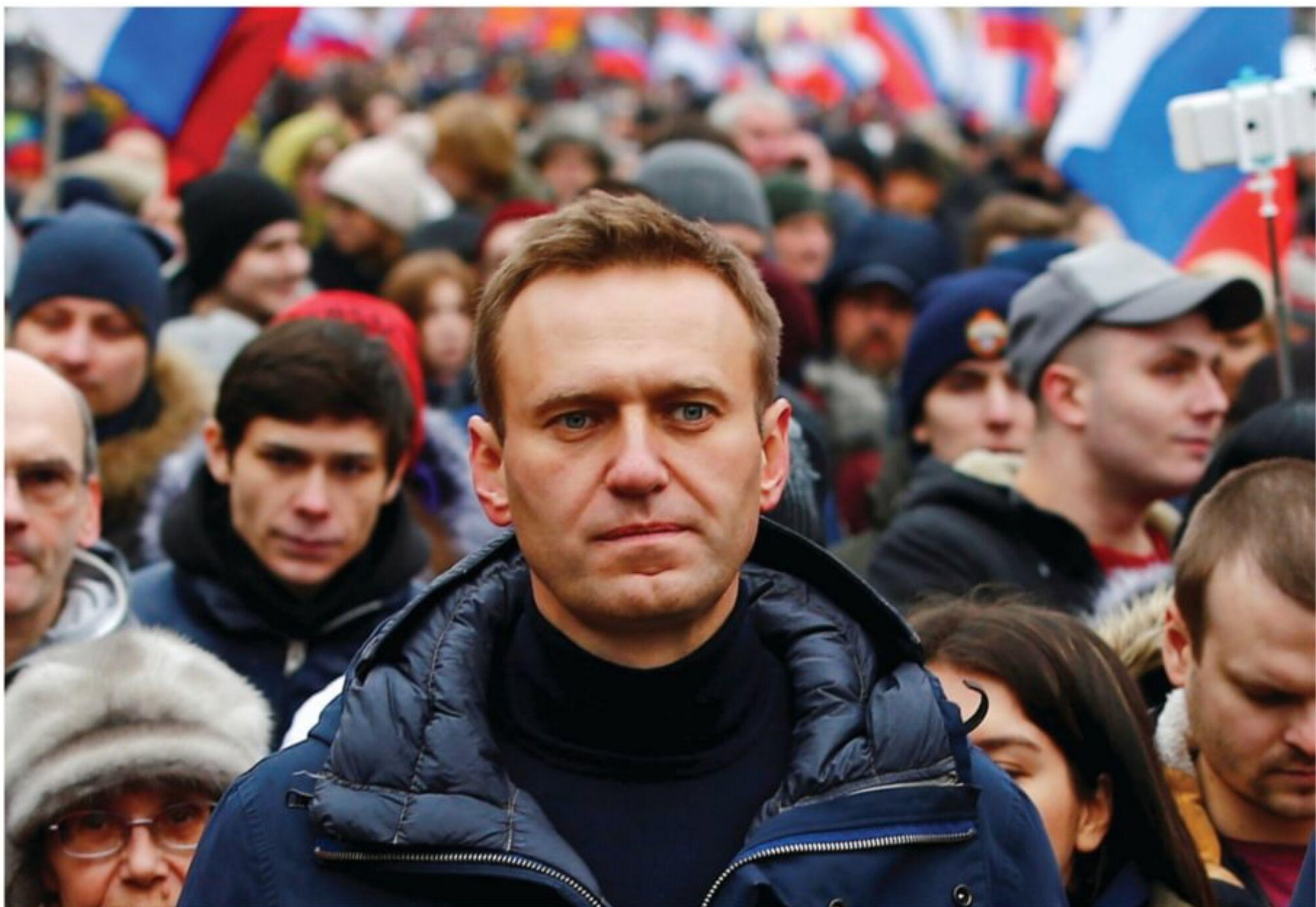
molten metal that looks like fire, and immolates everything it touches.

Ukraine has also been using long-range drones that can travel deep into Russia to wreak havoc on energy and ammunition facilities, oil refineries, military bases, and transportation systems. Back in July 2023, a squadron of drones struck the bridge that links Russia to Crimea, Ukrainian territory that Russia annexed in 2014. In September, a fleet of drones headed toward Moscow, damaging an apartment building and interrupting airport traffic.

For Putin, who expected the invasion to be wrapped up quickly, such attacks have proven an embarrassment. And the length of the war has drained Russia's weaponry, causing the nation to

rely on Iran and North Korea for ballistic missiles, artillery shells, and other materiel. Because more than 600,000 Russians have left that country, some to avoid conscription, North Korea in October sent at least 10,000 troops to help its ally.

Ukraine, meanwhile, has been receiving equipment from the U.S. and NATO nations, including air defense missiles and tanks, and in August began flying American F-16 Fighting Falcon jets. Seeking an even greater military edge, they are hoping for long-range missiles to take the fight farther into Russia. It is a strategy that could expand the war way beyond Ukraine's and Russia's borders, with Putin warning it "will mean that NATO countries, the U.S and European countries, are at war with Russia."



RUSSIA

Loss of a Political Dissident

Alexei Navalny had nothing to eat before arriving at the airport in Tomsk, Siberia, on August 20, 2020. The Russian opposition leader spent some time at the coffee shop and drank some tea. Soon after his plane took off, Navalny became ill, forcing an emergency landing. He was rushed to an Omsk hospital. Distrustful of the Russian doctors, a medical team airlifted Navalny to Berlin, where it was determined he had been poisoned with Novichok, a Soviet-era nerve agent.

Russian president Vladimir Putin was blamed for the attack on his political foe and Russia's most famous dissident. Since 2008, Navalny (above) had been campaigning against misdeeds in Putin's government. He formed the Anti-Corruption Foundation, and through it he quickly became a thorn in the side of the Kremlin. Briefly jailed in 2011 for protests over rigged parliamentary elections, he continued to accuse officials

of corruption. His opposition work brought on physical attacks. When he attempted to run for president in 2017, someone threw a caustic liquid in his face, damaging his eye.

Following his recovery from the 2020 Novichok poisoning, Navalny returned to Russia only to be arrested, sparking some of the largest protests in Russia in years. Sentenced to prison, he was behind bars when Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022 and was then sent to a penal colony above the Arctic Circle. In 2023, the film *Navalny*, about his poisoning, won an Academy Award for best documentary feature film. Then, on February 16, Navalny, 47, was reported to have died from what Russian officials later said was "natural causes." His funeral in a Moscow suburb drew thousands of mourners, and Navalny's wife, Yulia Navalnaya, has continued his crusade. A Moscow court has called for her arrest in absentia for "participating in an extremist organization."

GERMANY

A Resurgent Right

The Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) party's victory on September 1 in the German state of Thuringia shocked many Germans. AfD secured a third of the vote in the formerly communist state, where the Nazi Party first grasped power in 1930 before they consolidated their hold on the nation in 1933. This made AfD the nation's first far-right party to win an election since World War II. The AfD also came in second in neighboring Saxony, just behind the mainstream center-right Christian Democratic Union party; two months earlier it received nearly 16 percent of the German vote in the European Parliament election. AfD co-leader Alice Weidel (right) called the Thuringia victory "a historic success for us." It allowed regional AfD party leader Björn Höcke, who has been convicted for using a banned Nazi slogan and has questioned why Germany



needs to atone for the Holocaust, to take a seat in the local parliament.

As with the creeping growth seen with such European right-wing groups as Fidesz in Hungary and Law and Justice in Poland, the AfD's toxic mix of whitewashed nostalgia and xenophobia has allowed it to benefit from German voters' discontent over their economy, immigration, and the

nation's support for Ukraine. The Thuringia election results proved a blow to Chancellor Olaf Scholz's center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD), Greens, and liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP) coalition, with Scholz referring to the opposition's win as something that is "damaging Germany" as well as "weakening the economy, dividing our society, and ruining our country's reputation."



NATO

An Expanding Alliance

In March, Sweden joined NATO, ending decades of neutrality and military nonalignment, with Prime Minister Ulf Hjalmar Kristersson (at left between President Joe Biden and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg) saying, "United we stand. Unity and solidarity will be Sweden's guiding light as a NATO member, where we share burdens, responsibilities, and risks with other Allies." The move makes Sweden the alliance's 32nd member. As with neighboring Finland, which joined last year, Sweden's decision came about because of concerns over Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine and the realization that belonging to the alliance is the best way to ensure the country's security.

NATO members Turkey and Hungary initially opposed the Nordic nation's membership, using the need for military equipment as a bargaining chip. Both countries resent Sweden's criticism of their human rights abuses. Turkey has also long claimed that Sweden harbors members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which Turkey considers to be a terror group. Sweden denies the charge.



GREAT BRITAIN

King Charles and Princess Kate's Cancer Diagnoses

Less than a year after King Charles III's coronation, he and daughter-in-law Catherine, Princess of Wales entered the same hospital in January for procedures that would lead to cancer diagnoses for both. The types of cancer were not revealed to the public, and the king, Kate, and her husband, Prince William, took breaks from their public engagements while Queen Camilla assumed many of their duties. Charles returned to his rounds at the end of April by visiting the University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre, where hospital chief executive

David Probert exclaimed that the king appeared to be "full of great energy."

Kate's resumption of service took longer. On June 14, she released a message to say she was making "good progress" with her preventative chemotherapy treatment, though she was "not out of the woods." The following day, Kate (above with Charles and her daughter, Charlotte) attended the Trooping the Colour festivities for Charles's birthday. She completed her treatment in September and made her first public appearance on the 22nd, attending Sunday church services with William, Charles, and Camilla at Crathie Kirk church near the royal Balmoral estate in Scotland.

GREAT BRITAIN

Demanding Love, Not Hate

Summer vacation had started, and young kids gathered in July in Southport, England, for a Taylor Swift–themed event. Someone then rushed in and started slashing people. Teachers Leanne Lucas and Heidi Barlow did their best to protect the children. Three young girls—ages 6, 7, and 9—were killed while 10 youngsters and adults, including Lucas, were wounded.

What provoked the attack has not been determined, but a false rumor spread that the alleged 17-year-old assailant was a Muslim immigrant. Riots broke out, and far-right groups attacked places housing asylum seekers. The authorities released information to counter the rumor, and the police made hundreds of arrests.

Prime minister Keir Starmer condemned the “thuggery” as anti-racist demonstrators—who outnumbered the right-wing protesters—took to the streets of London, Cambridge, Newcastle, Oxford, Liverpool, and Manchester, with some chanting “refugees are welcome here.” Buckingham Palace released a statement that King Charles III was “greatly encouraged by the many examples of community spirit that had countered the aggression and criminality.” The suspect has been charged with terror offenses.



FRANCE

Notre Dame

A convoy of trucks laden with eight enormous bronze bells made its way through Paris to Notre Dame Cathedral in September. Hundreds crowded into the sanctuary, and before the bells were hoisted into the twin Gothic towers that had been restored after being devastated by fire five years earlier, rector Olivier Ribadeau Dumas blessed the reconditioned behemoths. He called their return “a sign that the cathedral will again resonate, and that its voice will be heard again.”

The fire on April 15, 2019, which took 12 hours to extinguish, melted the 12th-century cathedral’s lead roof, collapsed its soaring spire, and incinerated the oak beams from some 1,300 trees that made up the roof’s framework. Hundreds of artisans worked to restore the stained glass, the pavements, and the thousands of pipes in the grand organ. It’s all being done as part of preparations for the cathedral’s planned six-month reopening period, which starts in December.

World Briefs



New President

In October, former climate scientist Claudia Sheinbaum was sworn in as Mexico’s first-ever female president and that nation’s first leader with a Jewish background.



A Lost Civilization

In eastern Ecuador’s Amazon jungle, archaeologists have discovered a 2,500-year-old city with plazas and a network of canals and roads buried below lush vegetation.



Amanda Knox

After being exonerated for a 2007 murder, Knox returned to Italy for retrial on a slander conviction in the original case and was reconvicted for falsely accusing someone else.



Destroyer Found

The remains of the U.S.S. *Stewart*, the only U.S. Navy destroyer captured by Japan in World War II, was found 70 miles off the coast of San Francisco.



A YEARLONG WAR NOW ENGULFS THE MIDDLE EAST

The conflict that started with Hamas's murderous assault in October 2023 has turned into a spiraling regional battle.

WHEN THEIR PAGERS BUZZED ON SEPTEMBER 17, members of Hezbollah in Lebanon thought they were receiving orders from their commander. As they pressed the buttons to read the encrypted message, the pagers exploded. Hands and fingers were blown off, and shrapnel shot into eyes and skulls, wounding almost 3,000 and killing 12, including bystanders. Israeli intelligence had surreptitiously set up a front company to manufacture the pager devices, filled them with plastic explosives, and designed them so two hands were needed to open a message. This ensured that when their official-seeming text arrived, it would do maximum damage to members of the Iranian-backed militia. The next day, the soldiers' walkie-talkies blew up, killing 20 and wounding about 450. "It sounded like gunfire. Then we

saw cars, ambulances, and wounded people," Joumana, who was visiting loved ones in a Beirut hospital, told TIME of the panic that ensued.

Ever since October 7, 2023, when Hamas carried out a multi-front border assault that killed 1,200 in Israel and took some 250 hostage, Israel has been seeking to rout out the Gaza-based terrorist organization, with the war taking the lives of some 42,000 civilians and militants, according to the Gaza health ministry (which is controlled by Hamas; the U.S. and UN accept its figures). And while most of the fighting has occurred within Gaza—on October 16, Israel killed Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas leader who masterminded the October 7 attack—Israel has also been battling Hezbollah, which the day after the initial October assault started shooting missiles from Lebanon into Israel in support of Hamas. Israel re-



From left: People gathered in Tel Aviv on the anniversary of the October 2023 Hamas attack; Hussein Abu Assi stood in what remained of his Gaza home following an Israeli bombardment; an Israeli airstrike in Tyre, Lebanon.

sponded to those attacks, and the continuous barrage from each side has forced tens of thousands of Israelis and Lebanese citizens to flee their homes.

The September pager attack, though, marked an escalation of hostilities. Israel followed it by launching an assault on more than 100 Hezbollah rocket launchers in southern Lebanon, with Hezbollah countering by shooting about 150 rockets into northern Israel. At the same time, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) targeted the enemy's leadership. On September 20, an airstrike killed Hezbollah operations commander Ibrahim Aqil, who was involved in the 1983 bombing of the American embassy and the U.S. Marines barracks in Beirut, which killed more than 300. A week after Aqil's death, an airstrike leveled six buildings, killing Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Then, on October 1, Israel launched a ground invasion of southern Lebanon, which has forced a million people to flee; about 63,000 Israelis have been displaced on the border with Lebanon due to Hezbollah rocket fire.

While Israel has been battling with Hezbollah to the north and with Hamas in Gaza, they have also been raiding the West Bank. These incursions have resulted in some 700 deaths since October 2023, according to the United Nations, with the IDF on October 10 killing Iran-backed Palestine Islamic Jihad commander Mohammad Abdullah.

More than 1,000 miles to the south, Yemeni Houthi rebels similarly started attacking Israel in October 2023. The group, which is allied with Iran,

has repeatedly fired Iranian missiles and drones at Israel, most of which have been intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome defense. Houthi forces have also been targeting shipping along the Red Sea. The attacks have caused a rise in shipping costs, with the United States and the United Kingdom making repeated strikes on Houthi bases to deter them. On September 15, the Houthis launched ballistic missiles that for the first time reached central Israel, with the deputy head of the Houthi's media office, Nasruddin Amer, promising on X that the assault was only the "beginning."

Also troubling is the heating up of what has been a shadow war between Israel and Iran. In April, a presumed Israeli air strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Syria, killed leaders of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Two weeks later, Iran launched hundreds of missiles and explosive drones at Israel. This lit fears that the war was expanding. President Biden promised Israel, "We're going to do all we can to protect Israel's security," with the thinly veiled implication that the U.S. would become involved if Iran escalated attacks.

In October, Iran responded to the killing of its and Hezbollah and Hamas officers by launching ballistic missiles. Soon after, Israel for the first time openly attacked Iran, striking air defense and missile launch facilities, an assault Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu called "powerful." Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei warned that Iran's enemies "will definitely receive a crushing response."

ALGERIA

House of Worship

Rising 869 feet, the minaret at Djamaa El-Djazair, the Great Mosque of Algiers, is the tallest in the world. It has an observation platform that offers panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea, and when the call to prayer is broadcast, it can be heard up to a mile and a half away. Officially opened in February, the house of worship covers nearly 70 acres, holds 120,000 people, and is the largest mosque in Africa and the third largest in the world after those in Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia.

Elegantly sheathed with marble and travertine and surrounded by attenuated columns whose capitals call to mind splaying lily blooms, the mosque—designed by German architects KSP Engel—is filled with Arab and North African features. The *mihrab*, which points toward Mecca, has a translucent onyx surface upon which are engraved the 99 names of God. Overhead is a 164-foot wide dome, and there is a library



that can house 1 million books. As a sign that it is a mosque for the 21st century, the building sports a helicopter landing pad.

Initially conceived of by former Algerian president Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Djamaa El-Djazair was seen by many as a vanity project of the leader, who wanted to name it for himself

yet was forced to resign in 2019 after attempting to run for a fifth term. It took seven years to build at a cost of \$898 million, and Ali Mohamed Salabi, secretary general of the World Union of Muslim Ulemas, told the AP that it was worth the expense as it would lead Muslims “toward goodness and moderation.”



IRAN

Death of a President

Soon after Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi and foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian inaugurated the Qiz Qalasi Dam on the border with Azerbaijan, their Bell 212 helicopter crashed in the fog. Six others died, including the governor of Iran’s East Azerbaijan province. Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, called the crash a “bitter tragedy” and declared five days of public mourning. Citizens poured into Tehran’s Vali-e-Asr square clutching posters of the former president, 63, whom the West has called a “hardliner” for his enforcement of the country’s hijab and chastity law, which in 2022 led to months of nationwide protests and 500 deaths. Raisi also oversaw the execution of thousands of political prisoners in 1988. An election in July voted in Masoud Pezeshkian, a reformist leader who has called for engagement with the West.



SUDAN

A Humanitarian Crisis

Tens of thousands are crammed into a refugee camp in Tawila, a bleak stretch in western Sudan where a dozen children die each day. “There is no food here,” one woman told the *Guardian*. As Toby Harward, the UN deputy humanitarian coordinator for Sudan said, “The entire area is like hell on earth.”

Throughout Sudan, more than 10 million people have been uprooted by a hellish war, with 2 million fleeing to neighboring nations. More than 25 million people in this nation of 50 million face hunger and starvation.

The Sudanese war is the result of a festering dispute between rival military leaders Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the head of the armed forces, and Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who runs the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). They had agreed to share power following the 2021 coup, yet the two men started fighting in 2023. By June 2024,

the RSF controlled much of the capital of Khartoum, the state of Gezira in central Sudan, and other areas, including Darfur in the west. It was in Darfur two decades ago where Dagalo’s Janjaweed militia killed nearly 400,000.

Since fighting broke out in this African nation, cities have been laid to waste, soldiers have committed wide-ranging murders and rapes, and civilians have been targeted because of their ethnicity, with an estimated 20,000 killed.

A United Nations investigation reported in September that both sides “have committed an appalling range of harrowing human rights violations and international crimes, including many which may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.” Samantha Power, head of the United States Agency for International Development, has called this “the single largest humanitarian crisis on the planet,” and the U.S. announced in September that it was supplying \$424 million in aid for displaced Sudanese.



GREECE AND THAILAND

Same-Sex Marriage

As Greece's parliament in February discussed a bill to legalize same-sex marriage, opponents of the measure stood outside in Athens' Syntagma Square. They read passages from the Bible, clutched crosses, and prayed. Yet despite the opposition from some citizens, conservative groups, and Archbishop Ieronymos II, head of the Orthodox Church, who said the law would "corrupt the homeland's social cohesion," the bill passed. The historic vote, which made Greece the first majority Orthodox Christian country to approve of same-sex marriage, came about because of the efforts of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. The leader of the nation's conservative party made it possible by drawing support from the center-left and leftist opposition

parties. "Marriage is nothing more than the culmination of the love of two people who choose to be together by making a commitment to themselves, the state, and society as a whole," Mitsotakis said. Besides allowing the unions, the law also gave automatic parental rights to all of the country's 10.5 million citizens and let same-sex couples adopt.

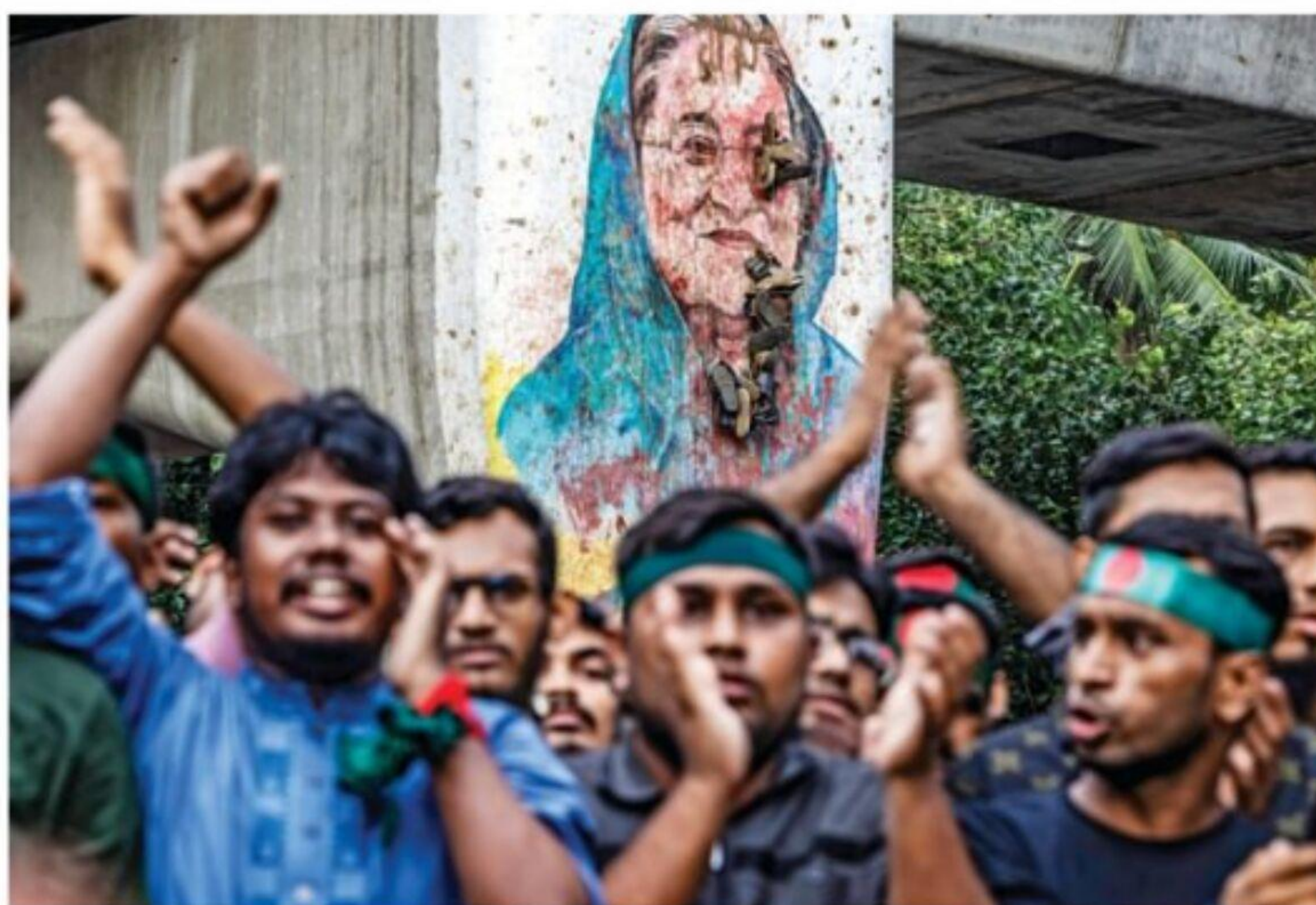
Four months later, Thailand's Senate approved a bill to legalize same-sex marriage, making it the first nation in Southeast Asia and the third in Asia after Taiwan and Nepal to enact such a law. King Maha Vajiralongkorn gave his royal assent in September when he signed the bill into law; it goes into effect in January 2025. As Mookdapa Yangyuenpradorn of the human rights organization Fortify Rights told the AP, the law is a "triumph for justice and human rights."

BANGLADESH

Hasina Flees

In Bangladesh, a nation of 170 million, nearly 32 million young people are unable to find work. It is why many have long resented a quota system for civil service positions that includes a provision that a third of the spots be reserved for relatives of veterans from Bangladesh's 1971 war for independence from Pakistan. In July, peaceful demonstrators took to the streets to protest the rule. Not wanting to broach dissent, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who won reelection in January in a vote marred by violence, called the protesters criminals, said they should be managed with an iron hand, and dispatched members of her Awami League party's youth wing to confront them. Attacks soon led to a brutal crackdown by security forces, who shot unarmed students.

This bolstered the protesters. Unrest spread across the nation. A subsequent nationwide curfew; the firing of live rounds, rubber bullets, and tear gas; and the



jailing of 10,000 people alienated both private citizens and business leaders. UNICEF's reporting that dozens of children had been killed, some shot inside their homes by stray bullets, further outraged the public.

At the beginning of August, protesters stormed Hasina's official residence in Dhaka, with battles leaving at least 300 dead. She fled to India, and her resignation led to widespread jubilation and the honking of car

horns and the waving of flags.

On August 8, Muhammad Yunus became his nation's chief adviser of the interim government. Yunus, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, now heads the interim cabinet, and needs to prepare the nation for a new election. In September, he attended the U.N. General Assembly session in New York and met with U.S. President Joe Biden, who offered America's support.



NORTH KOREA

Saber-Rattling

On the last day of 2023, Kim Jong Un declared that North Korea would no longer pursue reunification with South Korea and reportedly called for changing his country's constitution to remove a reference to "great national unity" and "peaceful reunification." Instead of peace, he called for "completely occupying, subjugating, and reclaiming the [Republic of Korea] and annexing it as a part of the territory of our republic." South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol called the decision "anti-national and ahistorical." In January, North Korea fired off a barrage of some 200 artillery shells near South Korean islands, and in April, it launched the Hwasong-16B missile. This is North Korea's first solid-fuel hypersonic intermediate-range ballistic missile, and it is capable of reaching Japan or the American territory of Guam. Kim (left) lauded it as a sign of his nation's "absolute superiority." In October, he again warned he could use nuclear weapons against South Korea and the U.S. and blew up roads and railways connected to South Korea.



MEXICO

Toppling a Drug Kingpin

Ismael “El Mayo” Zambada Garcia reportedly thought Joaquin Guzman Lopez just wanted to show him some potential real estate in northern Mexico that could be turned into airstrips to fly cocaine, heroin, and other drugs into the United States. The leader and co-founder of the notorious Mexican Sinaloa drug cartel got on the plane, unaware that the son of his former partner, Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, was part of an elaborate sting operation to capture him. On board, Guzman Lopez restrained Zambada Garcia with zip ties, and when they landed in El Paso, Texas, in July, U.S. officials arrested the kingpin.

Guzman Lopez’s father is already serving a life sentence in the United States, and the authorities also took

Guzman Lopez, who is an heir to El Chapo’s operation, into custody. It is not clear why he flew Zambada Garcia to the U.S., but the FBI was aware Guzman Lopez was considering turning himself in, and he may have been looking for a favorable deal for himself and his brother, who was already in U.S. custody. The arrest of Zambada Garcia sparked a cartel war between factions of the Sinaloa cartel, with dozens dying.

Despite a \$15 million bounty on his head, Zambada Garcia had eluded capture for decades. In court in September, prosecutors called him “one of the world’s most notorious and dangerous drug traffickers” who “maintained an arsenal of military-grade weapons to protect his person, his drugs, and his empire.” He pleaded not guilty to the 17-count indictment.

NEW ZEALAND

A Queen Is Anointed

With the death of Māori King Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII on August 29, his daughter Nga Wai Hono i te Po was chosen by Māori leaders as their leader. The new queen, 27, is the second youngest Māori monarch and second-ever queen. After being crowned using the same bible from the 1858 coronation of the first king, New Zealand Anglican Archbishop Don Tamihere anointed her with sacred oils. The queen (below), whose name means “a connector of peoples,” long prepared for her royal role. Fluent in the Māori language, she intends to increase the prominence of the Kiingitanga, the Māori King movement, which seeks to preserve her culture. This is something she is passionate about, especially with growing tension with the New Zealand government over such issues as the official use of the Māori language and treatment of Māoris, who make up 17 percent of the nation’s population.



BOTSWANA

One Very, Very Big Sparkler

The stone weighs more than one pound and will surely sell for a king’s ransom. Unearthed at the Karowe Mine in northeastern Botswana, this 2,492-carat diamond (right) is (after the 3,106-carat Cullinan diamond, found in 1905, that is part of the British crown jewels) the second largest ever discovered. In 2015, a 1,109-carat diamond was found at the same mine, and in 2019, a 1,758-carat one. This stone, which could sell for more than \$40 million, was uncovered using Mega Diamond Recovery X-ray technology, which is applied to locate large, high-value diamonds and prevent them from being broken during the ore-crushing process.



VENEZUELA

Democracy in Danger

While Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro appears to have resoundingly lost the July election to opposition leader Edmundo González, the National Electoral Council said Maduro had secured 52 percent of the vote. Demonstrators quickly took to the streets to protest the grab for power. Maduro, 61, responded by arresting his opponents. At least 24 people were reported to have been killed, with Maduro supporters encouraged to report on those who questioned the election results. Carolina Jiménez Sandoval, president of the Washington Office on Latin America, a research and advocacy organization advancing human rights in the Americas, told the *New York Times*, “I have been documenting human rights violations in Venezuela for many years and have seen patterns of repression before. I don’t think I have ever seen this ferocity.” González, 75, who calls himself “president-elect of millions and millions of Venezuelans who voted for change, democracy and peace,” said that aides to Maduro told him that if he refused to accept the election results, he would have to “deal with the consequences.” He received asylum in Spain and acknowledged that “I could be of more use free than if I were imprisoned.”

Science

TO THE MOON AND BEYOND

For the first time since 1972, the U.S. seeks to return and set up a long-term base.

IT HAS BEEN 52 YEARS SINCE AN AMERICAN VISITED the moon. In February, the U.S. finally returned when the unmanned *Odysseus* spacecraft landed near the southern pole. The craft is part of NASA's public-private Artemis program to establish a long-term lunar presence, with the agency choosing the location because of the availability of ice that can be used to make drinking water, oxygen, and fuel.

Artemis II is expected to ferry astronauts on a circumlunar journey no earlier than late 2025, and *Artemis III* will set a crew down on the surface by late 2026. The mini *Gateway* space station is meanwhile being prepared for lunar orbit leading up to the *Artemis IV* mission, scheduled for no earlier than 2028. It will have space for four astronauts and allow them to shuttle to and from the lunar surface. And because time moves faster on the moon—about 58.7 microseconds quicker each day, because the moon has a smaller mass and weaker gravity—NASA plans to set a unified standard time by the end of 2026 for not only the moon but other celestial bodies.

Not everything going on in space is taking place on the moon. On October 14, NASA launched the *Europa Clipper* mission toward Europa, one of Jupiter's 95 moons. The trip will result in the most detailed exploration ever of the mysterious icy moon, which scientists think might support life.

Closer to Earth, NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams test-flew the Boeing *Starliner* to the International Space Station in June. They planned to be there for just eight days, but the *Starliner* experienced malfunctioning thrusters and leaked helium, so it returned to Earth empty. Wilmore and Williams (right, with flight engineers Mike Barratt and Tracy Dyson) will now have to wait until February 2025 to return to terra firma.





POLIO

Preventing a Plague

With war raging in Gaza, routine immunization programs stopped, and polio has resurfaced there for the first time in 25 years. The first case was confirmed in August. The virus can cause paralysis and even death. To carry out the needed immunizations, Israel and Hamas agreed to a humanitarian ceasefire. The United Nations then began the two-part inoculation of 640,000 children younger than 10. “Without appropriate interventions, such as vaccination campaigns, there could be widespread outbreaks of polio within a matter of months,” says Dr. Michael K. Wroten, who runs a clinic for polio survivors in Washington, D.C.

Meanwhile, in September, there were reports that the Taliban suspended a vaccination campaign in Afghanistan because of security fears as well as restrictions on women administering the vaccines. They said they were looking at different ways to implement vaccinations. The World Health Organization has confirmed 18 new polio cases in Afghanistan, which, with Pakistan, is the only country where the disease has never been stopped.



LONG COVID

Debilitating Illness

Since COVID-19 struck in 2020, 400 million people worldwide have contracted Long COVID, according to a report in *Nature Medicine*. The enervating disease can affect nearly every organ system and bring on heart disease and other chronic ailments. Exhaustion makes it difficult for sufferers to work. The study’s authors estimated that the illness costs about \$1 trillion a year globally in lost work and the burden to healthcare services, writing that at this point there is a “near-total absence of evidence from randomized clinical trials to guide treatment decisions.”



VACCINE

Combating Malaria

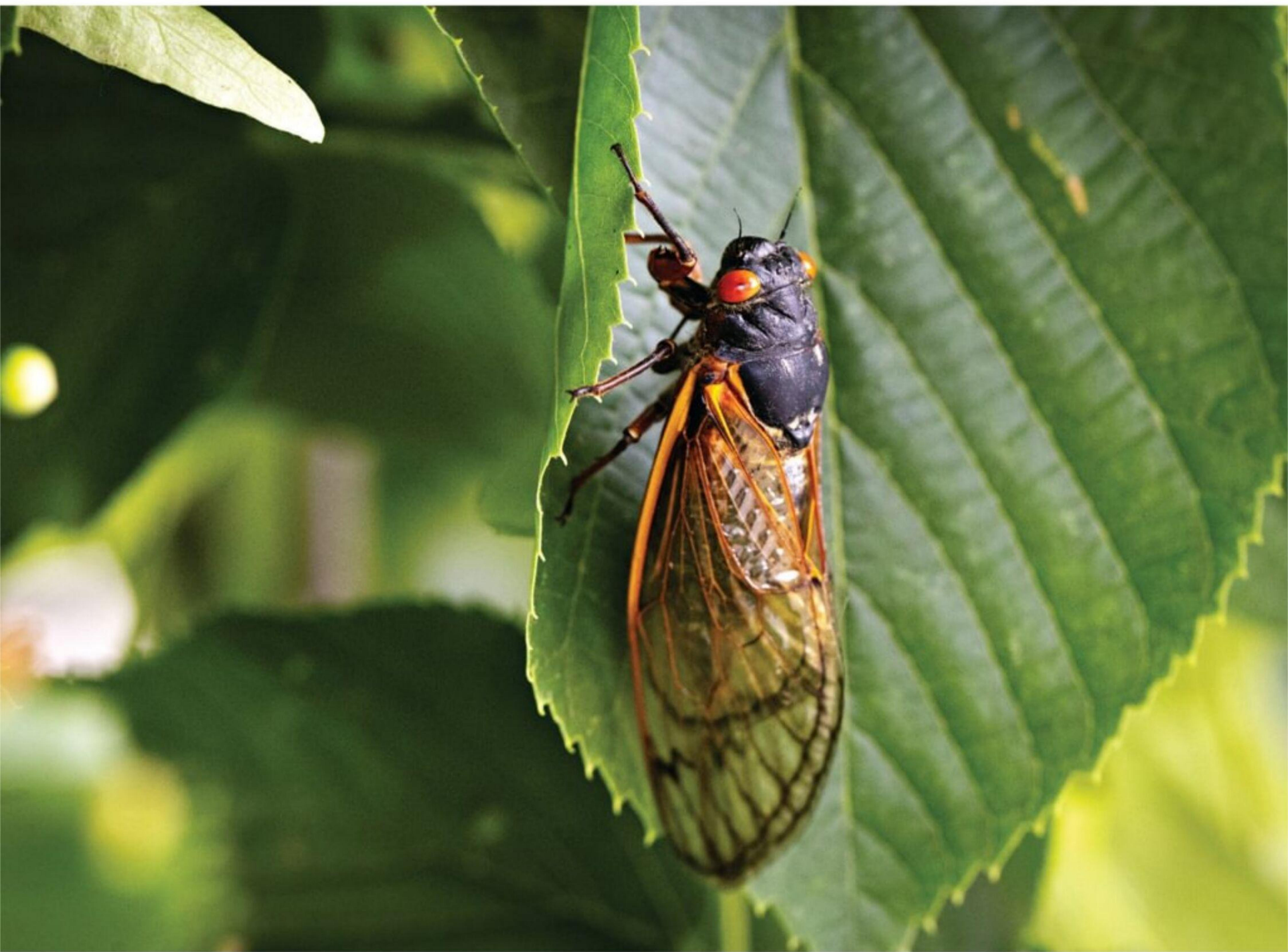
A malaria vaccine pilot program was carried out in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi in 2023, and in January at a clinic near Yaoundé, Cameroon, 8-month-old Daniella became the first recipient of the vaccine as part of a routine immunization program. The mosquito-borne illness is estimated to infect 249 million people each year, causing fever, chills, nausea, and abdominal, muscle and joint pain. Most cases occur in sub-Saharan Africa, with children under 5 making up the majority of 600,000 fatalities annually.



MPOX

Vaccine Approval

In August, World Health Organization director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared that Mpox, which can cause such ailments as skin rashes, mucosal lesions, fever, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, and death, had developed into a “public health emergency of international concern.” The virus is spread through close contact, and has been known to exist in the Democratic Republic of Congo for more than half a century. Cases increased there in 2022, followed by a new and sexually transmittable version in 2023. In September, WHO gave its authorization for the first vaccine against the disease, and some 245,000 vaccine doses arrived in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



THE ENVIRONMENT

All the Buzz

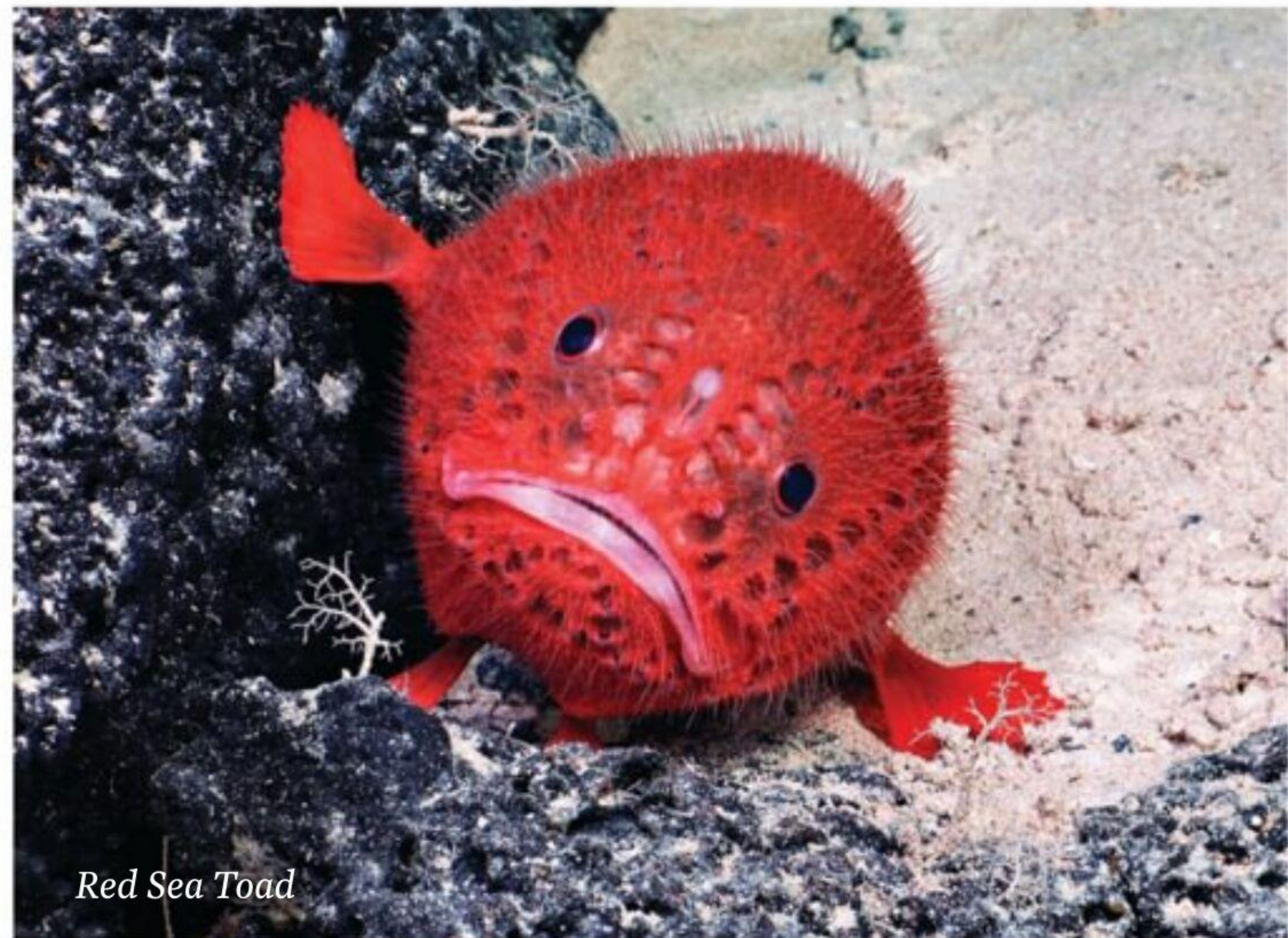
In an event that last took place in 1803, when Thomas Jefferson was president, two different broods of cicadas—one that comes out every 13 years, and another every 17 years—emerged from underground at the same time. The Great Southern Brood appeared in an area that spans multiple states, including Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and North and South Carolina. The Northern Illinois Brood hails mainly from Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois.

Trillions of the insects began to

emerge when the temperature reached about 64 degrees, with the males showing up first and the females a few days later. Once the thumb-size creatures with distinctive black bodies, red eyes, and translucent wings arrived, the males started up with their mating call, which can sound as loud as a lawnmower, a noise that is as much a part of the seasonal soundscape as a passing ice cream truck. The males hoped to attract females, and after they mated, the adults died off and their offspring tunneled underground. Another simultaneous appearance of the broods will not happen for 221 years.



Flying Spaghetti Monster



Red Sea Toad



Casper Octopus



Squat Lobster

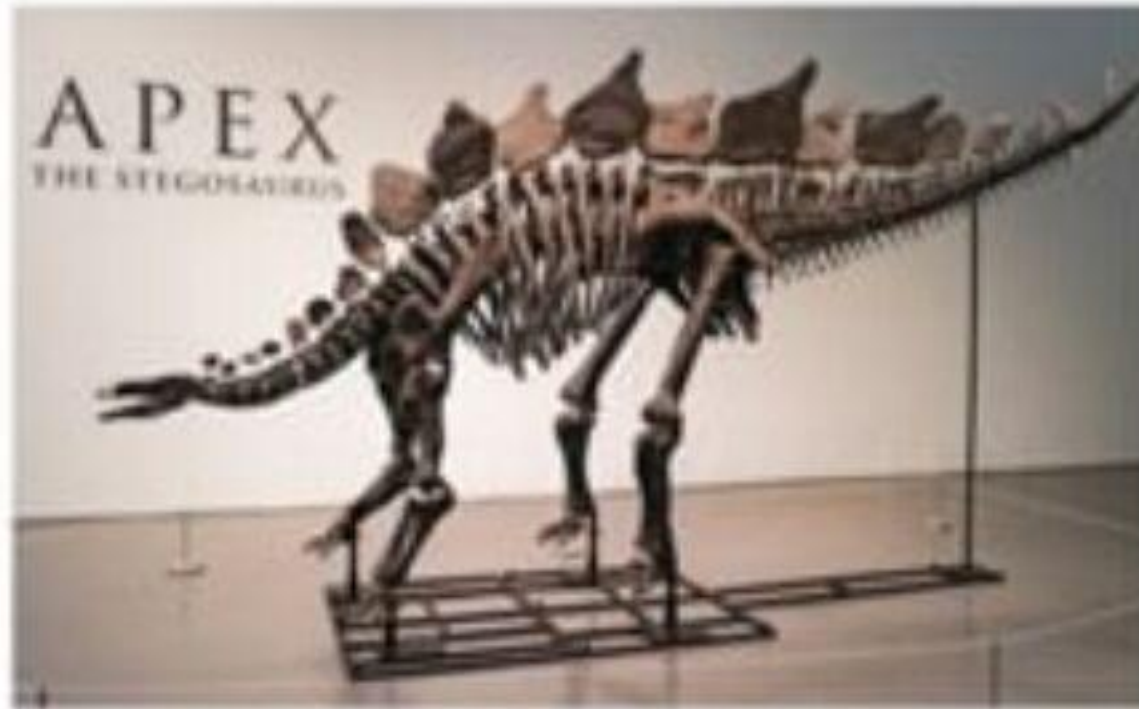
THE OCEANS

The Nazca Ridge

Nine hundred miles west of Chile, deep in the Pacific Ocean, rises an uncharted mountain range. It is home to a vast and unexplored wonderland, and earlier this year, the Schmidt Ocean Institute dispatched a robotic vehicle to map its floor and take pictures. It discovered more than 150 unusual as well as unknown species, including the never-before-seen bright-red sea toad, with flesh that looks like a crocheted blanket and hands for feet. The crew also spotted a squat lobster with long, attenuated legs; an array of rarely seen

species, such as an octopus nicknamed the Casper octopus because of its short arms and beady eyes; and a creature known as a “flying spaghetti monster” because of its wavy tendrils. As the expedition’s lead scientist, Javier Sellanes, told *Live Science*, “[T]he amount we found, especially for some groups like sponges, is mind-blowing.” The worry is that these creatures live in an area outside of any national jurisdiction. This makes them susceptible to overfishing and deep-sea mining. A UN High Seas Treaty that is being considered would designate the Nazca Ridge a protected area.

Science Briefs



Pricey Dinosaur

A stegosaurus skeleton sold at a New York auction for \$44.6 million, 11 times its presale estimate and the most ever paid for a fossil.



Return of a Horse

Seven Przewalski's horses—the last wild horse—were taken from a breeding program and reintroduced to Kazakhstan for the first time in 200 years.



A Second Moon

In September, a small asteroid called 2024 PT5 was captured by the earth's gravitational pull. For two months before escaping, it rotated around the globe as a “mini-moon.”



Marmosets

The trills and chirps emitted by the South American monkey include calls for individual members, making them the first non-human primates discovered who do that.



THE LOST WORLD

Dinosaur-Killing Asteroid

Anyone who has seen a *Jurassic Park* film or visited a natural history museum knows that dinosaurs once ruled the earth. Then, 66 million years ago, a six- to nine-mile-wide asteroid careened at 15.5 miles a second and slammed into Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula. This created one very big bang. In fact, it equaled an explosion estimated to be as powerful as 10 billion World War II atomic bombs. The blast ignited massive wildfires, created towering tsunamis, vaporized seafloor rocks, and spewed gasses into the air. The cataclysmic event blocked out the sun and wiped out not only *Tyrannosaurus rex*, *Stegosaurus*, and friends but some 75 percent of all species on earth, resulting in the subsequent emergence of mammalian life forms and eventually humans.

The question that has long perplexed scientists is where the asteroid came from. A team led by Dr. Mario Fischer-Gödde, a research scientist at the University of Cologne in Germany, reported in *Science* that by studying the geological remnants associated with the impact, they discovered ruthenium. The element is exceedingly rare on Earth but is found in asteroids and meteorites. Since versions of ruthenium in different parts of our solar system have distinct chemical signatures, Fischer-Gödde's team was able to determine that the dino-wiping asteroid emerged from beyond Jupiter. “Without this impact, what would our earth look like today?” Fischer-Gödde told the *New York Times*. “We should probably value, a bit more, that we are around, and this is maybe a lucky coincidence that everything came to place like it is today.”

Sports

C'EST MAGNIFIQUE!

The City of Light pulled out all the stops for the XXXIII Olympiad, with Paris's iconic venues serving as both backdrops and arenas for the 10,500 competitors.

EVEN THE MOST HARDENED CYNIC HAD TO admit that the Paris Olympics were joyous Games. The events filled each venue with enthusiastic fans of everything from morning table tennis and fencing to evening gymnastics and track and field, swimming, basketball, and judo. They drew near-capacity crowds, and the celebrities came out in force, too, because why not? It was Paris.

Officials with Paris 2024 made much of their plan to use iconic sites as sporting venues. From fencing under the ornate and breathtaking dome of the Grand Palais to marathon swimming in the Seine, not to mention the start of the cycling race on the Pont d'Iéna near the Eiffel Tower and beach volleyball in the shadow of that famous landmark, to equestrian events at Versailles and a boxing ring installed on a court at the Roland-Garros tennis stadium. The locations were almost as much a draw as were the sports themselves.

The opening ceremony on July 26 made the City of Light its stage. The festival took place in the hours surrounding sunset in France and was wildly ambitious, occasionally weird, ultimately wonderful, and extremely French, with a masked figure delivering the torch via zip line on its way to the Olympic cauldron at the Jardin des Tuileries. The Parade of Nations proceeded by boat along a 3.7-mile stretch of the Seine, pausing for the musical performances and other themed vignettes, like Lady Gaga singing Zizi Jeanmaire's "Mon Truc en Plumes" while surrounded by dancers with feathery fans. There were dozens of dancers in hot pink doing the can-can. A catwalk celebrated French fashion, and Celine Dion belted out Édith Piaf's

"Hymne à l'amour." It was truly *fantastique*.

Of course, this being France, there were protests. Not the usual countrywide shutdowns the country is famous—some say notorious—for. Many Parisians were unhappy with the public transportation closures for security and how the preparations for the Games strained the economy. And while they were surely pleased that there was a multi-year program to clean one of the city's most iconic features—the river Seine—the \$1.5 billion cost fouled many Parisians' economic palate. A movement got underway with the hashtag #JeChieDansLaSeine, which means "I'm pooping in the Seine." Levels of bacteria fluctuated above and below safe levels during the Games, forcing authorities to cancel some training sessions. Despite the threat, swimmers plunged into the water. Most did not get ill. Some became sick, possibly from the water.

With an average viewership of 30.4 million, up 82 percent from the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, the athletes owned screen time and headlines. Simone Biles, the most decorated gymnast of all time, continued to soar. U.S. women's national soccer took their first gold in 12 years. The lucky ones snagged a chance to see Novak Djokovic battle Rafael Nadal on a tennis court one last time.

Throughout, Paris proved itself a more than worthy host, in only the way that Paris can. As the Olympic lights in the City of Light were about to be dimmed, Tom Cruise rappelled into the stadium. He grabbed the Olympic flag, roared out on a motorcycle, parachuted from a plane, and delivered the flag to Los Angeles for the 2028 games. From the land of *Ooh La La* to La La Land.





TRACK AND FIELD

Gabby Thomas and Cole Hocker

Gabby Thomas, 27, led wire to wire in the 200 m, and when she raced across the finish line at the Stade de France, she was the first American to win that event since Allyson Felix in 2012. This wasn't the Harvard grad's only victory. Thomas picked up two other golds, in the 4x100m and the 4x400m relays.

Overall, the U.S. dominated in track and field in Paris, winning 34 medals—14 gold, 11 silver, and 9 bronze—the most it had won since Los Angeles in 1984. Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, 25, who won two golds in Tokyo in 2021, picked up two more in Paris, for the 400m hurdles and in the 4x400 relay. And Cole Hocker, 23, added a shocker to the U.S. haul with a surprise win in the 1500m. The middle-distance runner from Indianapolis bested both Josh Kerr of Great Britain and Norway's Jakob Ingebrigtsen—one of whom was expected to take the gold—winning the race by a mere 0.14 of a second with a blistering 3:27.65 run, which also set a new Olympic record.



SWIMMING

Katie Ledecky

Twelve years to the day after Katie Ledecky won her first Olympic gold in London in 2012, she earned her ninth. “I’m kind of relieved that I got my hand to the wall first,” she said of her victory in the 800m freestyle. “I knew August 3 was the day that I won in 2012. And I didn’t want August 3 to be a day that I didn’t like moving forward. So I kind of felt like I put a lot of pressure on myself, but I’m just really happy that I could get the job done. I definitely wouldn’t have pictured this in 2012.”

The Stanford grad, 27, now has 14 Olympic medals, beating her own record for the most Olympic medals won by an American woman and tying her with the Soviet Union’s Larisa Latynina for the most Olympic gold medals for a woman. It was a fitting way for her to close out the season and the Olympic Games. She wasn’t the only one on USA Swimming collecting medals. The U.S. took home 28—eight gold, 13 silver, and 7 bronze—with Torri Huske winning three gold and two silver and the U.S. setting three world records.



OLYMPIC CONTROVERSY

Khelif and Lin

It took only 11 minutes of jabbing and dancing for Algeria’s Imane Khelif (above) to beat China’s Yang Liu in the women’s welterweight division. The next day, Taiwanese featherweight Lin Yu-ting, 28, easily finished off Poland’s Julia Szeremeta. Each was awarded the gold. But it was the fight outside the ring that was more unsettling and brutal. Both women were battling unfounded accusations about whether they were women or men. It stemmed from questions in 2023 by the International Boxing Association, which claimed that both boxers had failed eligibility tests establishing their gender. The International Olympic Committee supported their participation in the Paris Games, and after her win, Khelif, 25, responded to the constant barrage of comments by saying, “I sent them a single message with this gold medal, and I say my dignity and my honor is above everything.” Both her and Lin’s victories weren’t just wins in the ring but statements against the brutal nature of bullying.

PARALYMPICS

Ezra Frech

Three weeks after the end of the Summer Olympics, 15.4 million people tuned in to watch athletes compete in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. They got to marvel at the armless Indian archer Sheetal Devi hitting bull’s-eyes and China’s swimmer Jiang Yuyan, who lost a leg and arm in a car accident as a child and is known as the “flying fish,” becoming the most decorated Paralympian with seven gold medals.

One of the most exciting events was watching American Ezra Frech running with a prosthetic leg in the 100m and beating Denmark’s Daniel Wagner by .02 second. Twenty-four hours later, Frech, 19, was at the high jump, clearing it at 1.9m and earning his second gold (right).



Sports



THE START OF A FOOTBALL DYNASTY

Another Chiefs Super Bowl Win

Things looked bad. The Kansas City Chiefs were trailing the San Francisco 49ers 22–19 in overtime. Then, Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes miraculously orchestrated a 75-yard drive that ended with the first walk-off touchdown pass in Super Bowl history and a 25–22 win. The Chiefs' third title in five years (they are also the first team to win back-to-back Super Bowls in 19 years) set off talk of a new dynasty. Football is more popular than ever, and the 123 million Super Bowl viewers saw one of the reasons on the field. Taylor Swift was there kissing her boyfriend, Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce (No. 87, above and right). Swift's presence (top right, with Kelce's mom, Donna) and the pair's relationship spiked NFL fandom. Apex Marketing Group estimated Swift's equivalent brand value to the sport in the first few months after the relationship became public was \$331 million.



RULING THE DIAMOND

World Series Champion Dodgers

The Dodgers and Yankees met for a record 12th time in the World Series, and the showdown began with a bang when Freddie Freeman's 10th-inning walk-off grand slam—the first in a Fall Classic—gave the Dodgers a 6–3 win in Game 1. The full five-game series scored easily the highest World Series television rating in the U.S. since 2017, as well as fervid interest in Japan, where about 15.2 million fans tuned in, drawn in large part by the Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani and his teammate Yoshinobu Yamamoto. Ohtani, the highest-paid player in baseball, sent a scare through the fan base when he dislocated his shoulder while trying to steal second base in Game 2, but he was back in the lineup for the next game. The teams traded wins in Game 3 and Game 4, and the Yankees had a 5–0 lead in Game 5 when they had a meltdown in the fifth inning, starting with Aaron Judge flubbing a routine fly ball. The Dodgers won the game 7–6 to clinch their eighth championship.



OWNING THE COURT

Caitlin Clark

When she played with the Iowa Hawkeyes, Caitlin Clark's baskets surpassed both the men's and women's all-time NCAA Division I college scoring record. Her presence also boosted viewership of college women's basketball, with Fox Sports reporting that the audience spiked by more than 60 percent.

Clark's Hawkeyes might have been bested 87–75 by the South Carolina Gamecocks in the 2024 women's national championship game in Cleveland in April, but her stellar performance on the team was a win for her. The next week, Clark was the No. 1 WNBA draft pick by the Indiana Fever. Indiana had won only 30 games over the previous four years. That all changed when their new six-foot-tall guard took to the court, with the team making the playoffs for the first time since 2016. On October 3, Clark, 22, was anointed 66–1 Rookie of the Year. Not wanting to waste any time, she announced that she was switching from a wood court to a golf course for the offseason to play with the LPGA pro-am.

Sports Briefs



A Family Affair

LeBron James and his son Bronny made history on October 6 when they became the first father and son to play together at the same time in an NBA game.



Little League Win

The team from Lake Mary, Florida, defeated the team from Taipei to win the league's World Series, beating them 2–1 in extra innings.



One Long Match

It took Dan Evans five hours and 35 minutes to beat Karen Khachanov in the longest U.S. Open tennis match since the tiebreaker was introduced in 1970.



Hang Twenty

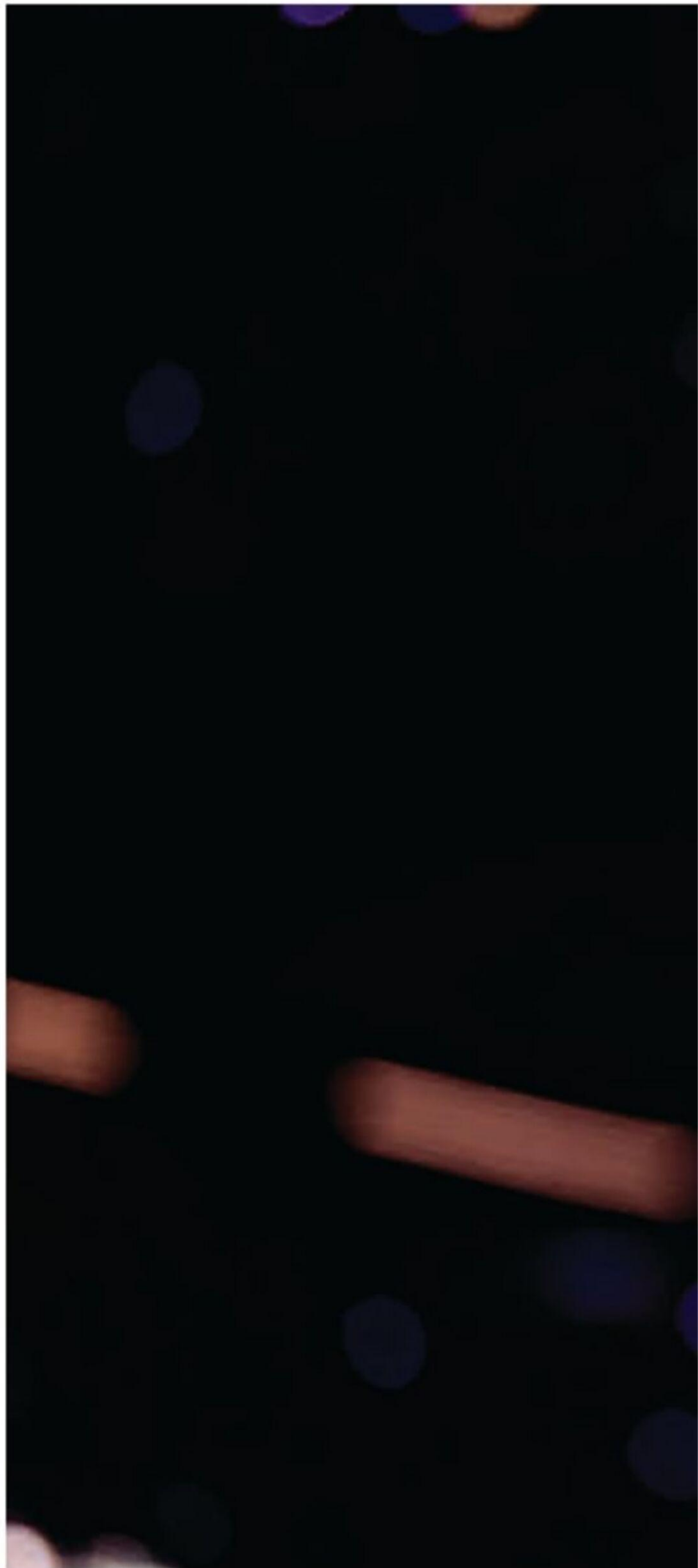
At the World Dog Surfing Championships in August on Linda Mar Beach in Pacifica, California, 10-year-old Faith the Surfing Pit Bull caught a wave. Barkabunga!

THE ERA OF TAYLOR

The pop-music goddess wowed adoring audiences with an epic tour and lots of new songs.

DURING TAYLOR SWIFT'S TWO BACK-TO-back sold-out shows at Seattle's Lumen Field, Swifties began dancing so furiously that they caused a seismic activity that equaled a 2.3 magnitude earthquake. The July 2023 event, called the Swift Quake, perfectly encapsulates the effect the singer's Eras Tour has had since it kicked off in Glendale, Arizona, in March 2023. For the past year and a half, Swift has offered an earth-shaking series of shows packed with music and fashion. She has swooped through five continents, and the 149-show extravaganza—which ended in Vancouver, British Columbia, in December—includes a three-hour, more than 40-song jukebox selection of music from Swift's 11 albums. It has racked up more than \$1 billion in ticket sales and stands as the highest grossing concert tour of all time. In the process, the 34-year-old performer has boosted the economy of every city she has graced. The U.S. Travel Association reports that after the start of the American leg of the tour, Eras' economic impact likely exceeded \$10 billion. "Beatlemania and Thriller have nothing on these shows," says Swift's friend and collaborator Phoebe Bridgers.

While Swift has been jetting all over, she has found time to pick up more trophies for her mantel. In February, her *Midnights* album won two Grammys, one for album of the year, making Swift the only artist to win that award four times. She has also released new music: *The Tortured Poets Department* debuted as her 14th No. 1 album. And the 2023 film of her tour, *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour*, made \$261 million worldwide, besting Michael Jackson's 2009 *This is It* and becoming the highest-grossing concert film ever. It's all just the latest as Swift continues her domination of pop music while shaking up our planet.







PIANIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

Billy Joel

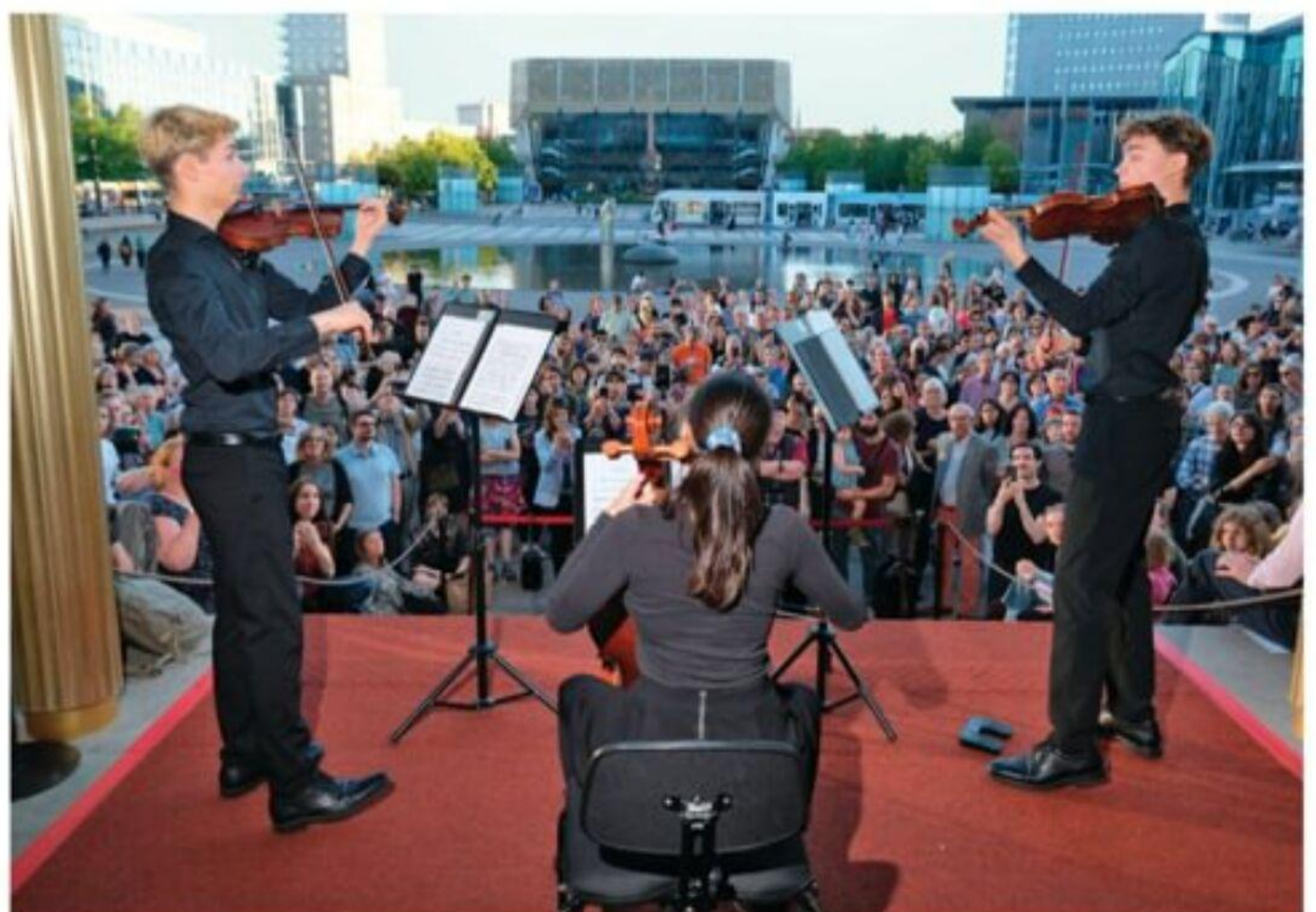
Nearly 2 million people came to see Billy Joel during his Madison Square Garden residency. Alas, the gig has ended, after a record-setting 104 concerts. Those who got to pack into the shows over the past 10 years could sing along with decades of Joel's hits, listen to Miley Cyrus belt out his "New York State of Mind," and be entertained by guests including Paul Simon, Bruce Springsteen, and Itzhak Perlman. When Olivia Rodrigo joined Joel, she duetted and danced to his "Uptown Girl" and then sang her "Deja Vu," which name-checks the Joel composition. As the piano man closed out his last show, he promised the audience, "We'll come back."

Clearly there is no slowing down for the 75-year-old songsmith. In February, he released his first new song in 17 years, "Turn the Lights Back On," dropping the single nearly 50 years after he first made the Billboard Hot 100 in 1974 with "Piano Man." And he is still hitting the road, touring with performers such as Stevie Nicks and Sting.

LOST AND FOUND

Mozart String Trio

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart might have died in 1791, but he is still dropping new music. While the Leipzig Municipal Libraries was compiling an updated catalog of his 600-plus work, they came across a copy of an unknown composition that the wunderkind likely whipped off in the 1760s between the ages of 10 and 13. The library called the 12-minute string trio "Ganz kleine Nachtmusik," a reference to his 1787 "Eine kleine Nachtmusik." The work seems to have been inspired by his sister, Maria, herself an accomplished musician. It had its first modern performance on September 19 at the Salzburg unveiling of the latest edition of the Mozart catalog.



Music Briefs

**Graceland**

An accused scammer was arrested for allegedly trying to defraud Elvis Presley's family and auction off his Memphis home.

**Guts World Tour**

With two hit albums and three Grammys, Olivia Rodrigo has been filling stadiums around the world and released a concert film in October.

**New Music from RM**

The BTS member released his second solo album *Right Place, Wrong Person*, along with a documentary about the making of the record.

**Sabrina Carpenter**

From her clever, genre-blending album *Short n' Sweet* came a campy *Death Becomes Her*-inspired video for "Taste" with Wednesday's Jenna Ortega.



RIDE 'EM COWGIRL

Queen B Goes Country

Beyoncé might be best known for her R&B, pop, and hip-hop albums, which have earned her a record 32 Grammy Awards and sold 200 million copies. Country music is not necessarily a genre you would associate with the Texas-born Queen B. She did perform a version of her "Daddy Lessons" with the Dixie Chicks at the 2016 Country Music Association awards. Afterward, she was greeted with racist social-media backlash. That got Beyoncé thinking about what had happened, and she wrote on Instagram in March that the unpleasant experience made her determined "to bend and blend genres together to create this body of work." The result was *Cowboy Carter*, a twangy cornucopia filled with country, blues, Black folk, zydeco, and hip-hop, as well as contributions from other Black artists. The record debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 albums chart in April, with the "Texas Hold 'Em" single galloping to No. 1 on the Billboard Global 200, and she became the first Black woman to ever top Billboard's Hot Country Albums chart. Surprisingly, the Country Music Awards passed over "Cowboy Carter" when handing out nominations—a glaring omission, with Kelly Clarkson noting, "I kind of find it fascinating, because I feel like those songs were everywhere."

A FEAST FOR THE EYES

The Taste of Things

The pleasures of Tran Anh Hung's luminous period romance *The Taste of Things* run quiet and deep. Juliette Binoche and Benoît Magimel play Eugénie and Dodin, a man and a woman living in a French country manor circa 1885. Dodin is a gourmet, Eugénie his cook. Yet she's so much more than that—a partner in crime who knows how to bring Dodin's epicurean visions to life, a companion who enjoys talking and laughing with him, and sometimes a lover. The rhythm of their relationship is as pastoral and orderly as the shifting of the seasons.

It's food that binds them close, and *The Taste of Things* is a sumptuous tale about sensory pleasures; you can almost smell the oakiness of the wine. This is flat-out gorgeous elixir of love in movie form, serving audiences the spirit of our art-house cinema past preserved forever, like a jar of antique French sunlight.



DOCUMENTARY

Will & Harper

Will Ferrell and Harper Steele met in 1995 when both were hired the same week at *Saturday Night Live*—Ferrell as a cast member and Steele as a writer. Steele came out as trans in 2021, and Ferrell asked her, “What if we do a road trip where we discuss what this transition means for us?” Netflix's *Will & Harper* is a witty film about discovery and friendship. It captures the vibe of a duo whose sense of humor is fully in sync. The film unfolds as a documentary-style hangout comedy, with the two visiting spots important to Steele, such as Iowa City, where she grew up. While there were pleasant encounters, the trip wasn't always smooth sailing—the friends encountered transphobic hostility in Amarillo, Texas. Even so, Steele would like the film's message of acceptance to reach people: “The hope is for people to recognize that they do have a queer person somewhere in their family. How are they thinking about treating that person? Maybe a film like this can show the way to do it with comedy.”

Movie Briefs



From the Stage to the Big Screen

After 21 years filling Broadway seats, *Wicked* comes to movie theaters, with Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo as frenemies Glinda and Elphaba.



An Unnerving State of Disunion

In *Civil War*, Kirsten Dunst played a journalist covering the tragic unraveling of America after some states decide to secede.



Helping a Friend at the End

In *The Room Next Door*, Pedro Almodóvar told of two friends, played by Julianne Moore and Tilda Swinton, as one prepares to die.



A Dapper Adventurer's Hat

The fedora Harrison Ford wore in 1984's *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* sold at auction for \$630,000. His whip went for \$525,000.



GETTING THOSE EMOTIONS IN CHECK

Inside Out 2

Pixar's *Inside Out* defied the conventions of family movies by being an animated comedy about brain chemistry and situational depression. The 2015 film was perhaps the craziest thing Pixar has ever come up with, a nearly hallucinogenic, entirely beautiful film and easily the animation studio's best release since 2010's *Toy Story 3*. It followed 11-year-old Riley Andersen (voiced by Kaitlyn Dias), who loves hockey and her parents, but the story is mainly told from the perspective of five core human emotions—Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust—and how Riley and they deal with her family's relocation to San Francisco.

In 2024's *Inside Out 2*, it is now the summer before high school, and 13-year-old Riley (Kensington Tallman) heads off with her two

best friends to hockey camp. She has also entered puberty, which brings with it four new emotions: Envy, Embarrassment, Ennui, and Anxiety. The latter, voiced by Maya Hawke, is arguably the most complicated feeling in the bunch, complete with frazzled hair and arms full of baggage. As Riley seeks to hold on to her friends, be accepted by the older kids, and gain a spot on the high school hockey team, the film shifts between views of her outside life and her inner turmoil as Riley's recently acquired emotional baggage wreaks havoc on her and perplexes those around her.

If anyone at Pixar was anxious about how the film would do, there was no need. It outperformed box office expectations, earning almost \$1.7 billion worldwide. That must have been a sigh of relief for Pixar, and something that surely brought true joy to the studio.

Arts

TROUBLED LAUNCHING

It Ends with Us

Colleen Hoover's novel *It Ends with Us*, which first appeared in 2016, was both a huge success and a magnet for controversy. Inspired by the author's parents' relationship, it drew criticism for its depiction of domestic abuse and the characters' decision to coparent even after their divorce.

When the film, starring Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni, premiered in August, people noticed that Baldoni, who also directed, was not at the film's joint press events. They also commented about the fact that the two stars didn't pose together on the red carpet. Others have pointed out how Lively, who also produced the movie, spoke little about Baldoni. *The Hollywood Reporter* wrote that the two stars fell out over creative differences, with Lively even commissioning her own version of the film. And many expressed frustration that when Lively promoted the film, she did not speak about the movie's subject of partner violence, seemingly portraying it as a romantic comedy.



CHARGED

Sean Combs

Music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs pleaded not guilty to charges of sex trafficking, racketeering, and transportation to engage in prostitution in New York. The federal indictment alleges that the Grammy-winning Bad Boy Records founder "abused, threatened, and coerced women and others around him to fulfill his sexual desires" and accuses him of forcing the women to participate in sexual activity with male sex workers. If he is convicted, Combs, who has denied the charges and has been jailed without bail, faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.



TRIAL

Alec Baldwin Case

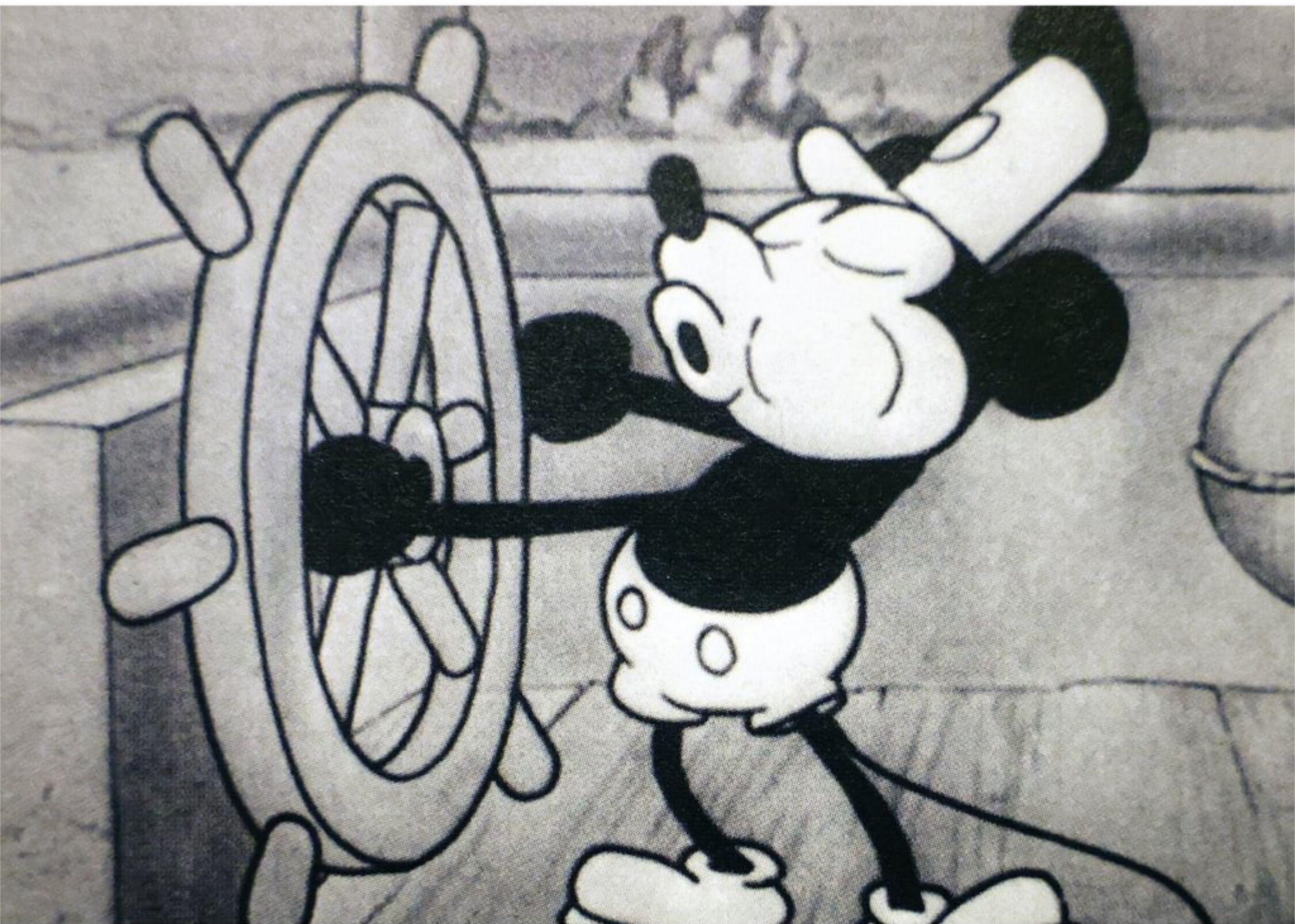
Three days into Alec Baldwin's July trial for involuntary manslaughter over the accidental shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins in 2021 with a prop gun while on the set of the movie *Rust*, Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer dismissed the case. She referenced law enforcement's and prosecutors' actions in withholding evidence. Baldwin wept as the verdict was announced. Set armorer Hannah Gutierrez Reed, who was convicted of involuntary manslaughter, is now seeking to have her charges dismissed as well.



BACK IN COURT

Harvey Weinstein

Former movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was convicted in 2020 in New York of rape and sexual assault and sentenced to 23 years in prison. In April, the New York Court of Appeals overturned the conviction, ruling that the trial judge had unfairly allowed testimony based on allegations from other women who were not part of the case. A new trial was ordered. In September, Weinstein underwent emergency heart surgery a few days before he was indicted on additional sex crimes charges in New York. He also faces lawsuits brought by women including actor Julia Ormond stemming from alleged sexual misconduct. In June, Weinstein appealed his 2022 Los Angeles conviction on sex crimes, for which he was sentenced to 16 years.



COPYRIGHTS

A Mouse in the Public Domain

When Walt Disney's cartoon short film *Steamboat Willie* appeared in theaters in 1928, it was revelatory. One of the first cartoons to use synchronized sound, the groundbreaking short launched the Disney studio's success. Most famously, it introduced the world to Mickey Mouse, the face and ears of a company that is now valued at \$170 billion.

The Walt Disney Company had long succeeded in extending the film's copyright protection. However, in January, it officially expired, and Mickey Mouse found himself in the public domain. This means anyone can use the

Steamboat Willie version of the Mickey character without any fear of copyright infringement. A sign of what was in store for the chipper mouse included a 2024 horror film, as well as edited versions of *Steamboat Willie* saying things that would surely make Minnie Mouse blush.

Later versions of Mickey are still the property of Disney, including the signature image of the mouse in red shorts, oversize shoes, and iconic white gloves. "We will, of course, continue to protect our rights in the more modern versions of Mickey Mouse and other works that remain subject to copyright," Disney said in a statement.



PROFILE

Da'Vine Joy Randolph

BY UZO ADUBA, EMMY-WINNING AND TONY-NOMINATED ACTOR,
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN *TIME* ON APRIL 17, 2024

The first time I saw Da'Vine Joy Randolph perform was during an early preview of *Ghost the Musical*. The ease with which she existed on that stage and the power she commanded in that room was unbelievable. Here was this girl, fresh out of Yale, totally reinventing an iconic role. She was exceptional. It's exciting that now we all get to experience the fullness of

what Da'Vine can do. Her performance in *The Holdovers* was balletic, just so deliberate and crafted. She approaches her characters with the kind of sincerity, honesty, and nuance that makes me proud to be an actor. Da'Vine stands firmly in who she is, embracing the whole of her strength and her softness, and I so admire that. One of the highest compliments you can give in Nigeria is “well done”—that’s when you know you’re really cooking with gas—so, well done, Da'Vine. Well, well done.

CUSP OF GREATNESS

Stereophonic

Stardom is the dream of many would-be rock musicians, and the five members of the fictional up-and-coming '70s band in David Adjmi's *Stereophonic* believe that success is but one album away. They just have to record it. The play takes place over a year as they struggle away in a recording sound booth where they argue, ingest drugs, and make music as engineers record what they hope is a smash hit. And Adjmi's play is one, scoring five Tony Awards.

The playwright said he was inspired by Led Zeppelin and other bands of the era, though *Stereophonic* most closely calls to mind the tumultuous and toxic relationships that marked the recording of Fleetwood Mac's album *Rumours*. In October, Ken Caillat—who worked on *Rumours*—as well as his *Making Rumours* cowriter filed a lawsuit against Adjmi, saying the play was a “flagrant and willful infringement” on the 2012 memoir.



KILL THE MESSENGER

An Enemy of the People

All Dr. Thomas Stockmann wanted to do was warn his Norwegian hometown that the water in the local springs contained a deadly bacteria. But as playwright Amy Herzog's adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's 1882 *An Enemy of the People* unfolds, Stockmann is ignored, cajoled, attacked, and driven from his family for trying to help his neighbors. Many, like his brother the mayor, are more fearful of the negative economic impact such a revelation will have on their community of Kirsten Springs. Jeremy Strong's quietly intense performance as Stockmann—which won him a Tony Award—has been seen as channeling the experience of presidential medical adviser Anthony Fauci when the good doctor tried to alert Americans of the dangers posed by the COVID-19 virus.

PUCCINI'S OPERA

A New Ending for *Turandot*

Giacomo Puccini struggled writing his opera *Turandot*, about a haughty Chinese princess who has her suitors executed. The Italian composer of such beloved operas as *La bohème*, *Madame Butterfly*, and *Tosca* was ill with throat cancer, complaining, “I curse *Turandot*!” He died in 1924, leaving the grand duet of the triumphant love scene uncompleted. Even so, *Turandot* premiered in 1926 at Milan's La Scala, with the opera ending where Puccini had left it when he died.

Audiences have long loved the opera's color, pageantry, and spectacle, especially its soaring “Nessun dorma” aria. Many, though, hoped for a proper ending. The opera's copyright in the U.S. expired in 2021, and the Washington National Opera commissioned Grammy-winning composer Christopher Tin and the librettist and Emmy-winning playwright Susan Soon He Stanton to create a new finale, with the princess surrendering to love and giving the characters a happy ending.



CULTURE SHOCK

Shōgun

The 1980 miniseries *Shōgun*, based on James Clavell's best-selling 1975 novel, was a massive hit, led by Richard Chamberlain and the iconic Japanese actor Toshiro Mifune retelling of the tale of an English navigator's adventures in feudal Japan. The new FX series—which has been renewed for two more seasons—is, remarkably, not a remake so much as a radical reimagining. The sprawling drama takes a far broader view than its predecessor, moving beyond the Westerner's perspective to survey a fracturing society that is just as baffled by this interloper's ways as he is by theirs. It's an epic of war, love, faith, culture clash, and political intrigue.

The Emmy Awards agreed. The show, which is largely in Japanese, made history by taking home 18 trophies. They include one for Anna Sawai, who became the first Asian performer to win the award for outstanding lead actress in a drama series.



WHODUNIT

Only Murders in the Building

Pity the residents of the Arconia in *Only Murders in the Building*. Mind you, they have to-die-for apartments in a Dakota-like luxury apartment on Manhattan's Upper West Side. The only problem is that residents and friends keep getting knocked off. While bad for them, it has been a boon for viewers. The show stars Steve Martin, Martin Short, and Selena Gomez as neighbors, crime-podcast aficionados, amateur sleuths, and budding podcasters who investigate as well as become suspects in the unfolding foul deeds. Throughout, they pin clues to murder boards and map out and investigate the most recent death.

In season 4, their success at cracking crimes and making podcasts gets them whisked off to Hollywood, where a studio has chosen real-life stars Eugene Levy, Zach Galifianakis, and Eva Longoria to portray them in a movie. Of course, death doesn't take a holiday. The show has already won a number of Emmys, welcomed such guest stars as Meryl Streep, and been renewed for a new season, meaning that the neighbors at the Arconia better keep their doors locked and their shades pulled down.

TV Notes



Stalked

In the play turned hit Netflix series *Baby Reindeer*, Scottish comedian Richard Gadd recounted being stalked and how he confronted his long buried trauma.



Satellite Merger

DirecTV plans to acquire Dish TV and streamer Sling TV. If the deal is approved by regulators, it will create one of the nation's largest pay-TV distributors.



Sinister Doings

Andrew Scott created the definitive psychopath Tom Ripley in the latest take from Netflix on Patricia Highsmith's con man in search of art and a better life.



All Grown Up


Young Sheldon ended after seven seasons, during which we watched brainy Sheldon Cooper (Iain Armitage) zip from elementary school to college.

A NEW DOCTOR

Ncuti Gatwa

As the eponymous character at the heart of the longest running sci-fi show, *Doctor Who*'s Doctor has zipped through time and space in a ship known as the TARDIS that looks like a London police box. Along the way, the Doctor has not only defeated evil creatures and righted past and future wrongs, he has also periodically "regenerated." This has allowed for new actors to step in and energize the role started in 1963 by the first Doctor, William Hartnell. More than a dozen have followed, including Matt Smith as the 11th and Jodie Whittaker as the 13th (and first female) Doctor. Ncuti Gatwa, who wowed audiences on Netflix's *Sex Education*, is now the 15th and first Black and queer steerer of the TARDIS. Taking the role of such an iconic character meant that the Rwanda-born, Scottish-raised actor (right, with his travel companion, played by Millie Gibson) needed to study his predecessors and then figure out his own spin on the Time Lord. He describes his Doctor as action-focused and unafraid of a stunt, but also deeply empathetic: "He's not afraid to cry—he feels a lot. He's cheeky, he's quite flirty, and he's unafraid to use his charm to get what he wants."





A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

In Praise of Mystery: A Poem for Europa

BY ADA LIMÓN

Arching under the night sky inky
with black expansiveness, we point
to the planets we know, we
pin quick wishes on stars. From earth,
we read the sky as if it is an unerring book
of the universe, expert and evident.

Still, there are mysteries below our sky:
the whale song, the songbird singing
its call in the bough of a wind-shaken tree.

We are creatures of constant awe,
curious at beauty, at leaf and blossom,
at grief and pleasure, sun and shadow.

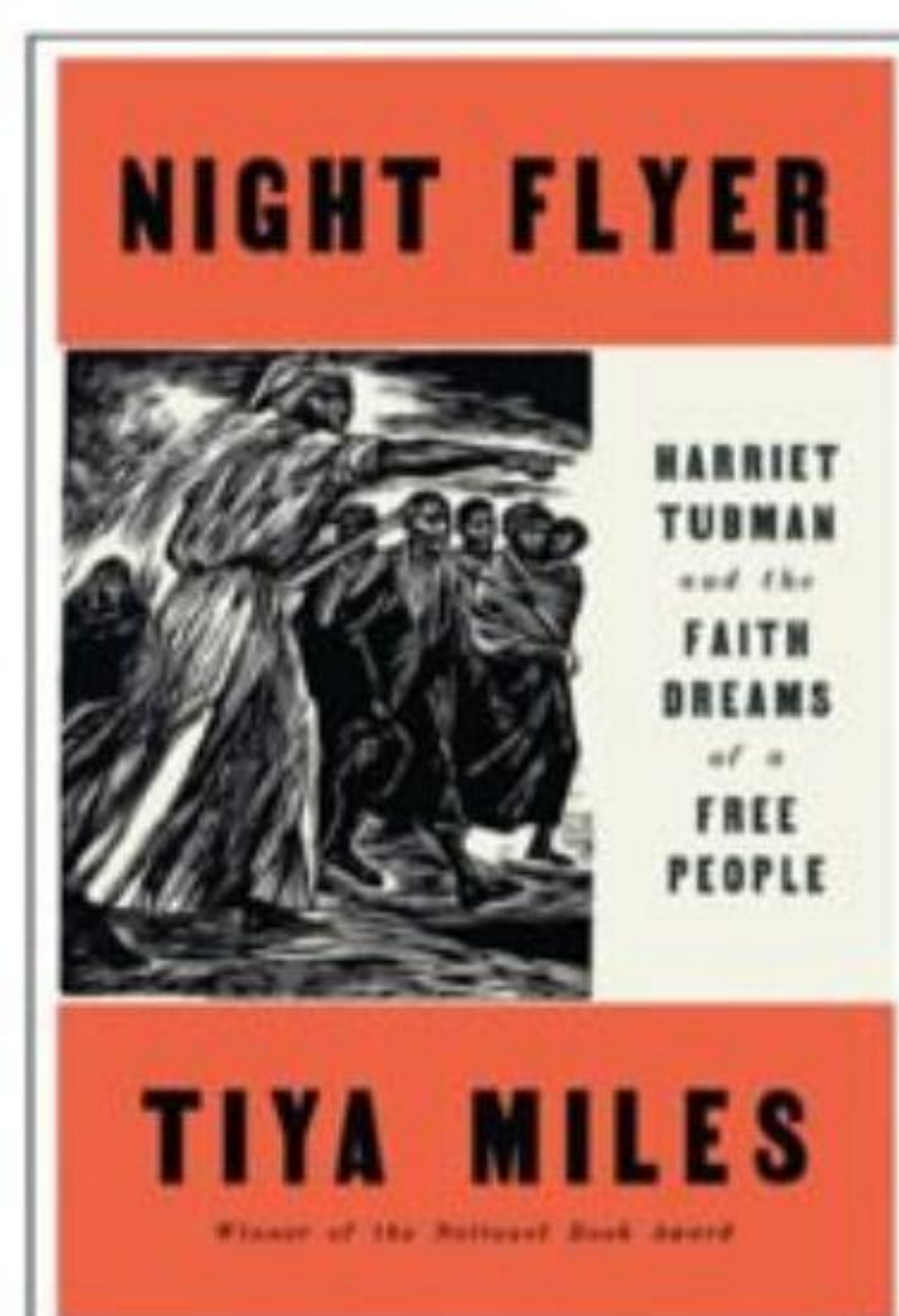
And it is not darkness that unites us,
not the cold distance of space, but
the offering of water, each drop of rain,
each rivulet, each pulse, each vein.
O second moon, we, too, are made
of water, of vast and beckoning seas.

We, too, are made of wonders, of great
and ordinary loves, of small invisible worlds,
of a need to call out through the dark.

The poem was attached to the side of the Europa Clipper mission spacecraft, and is traveling to Europa, one of Jupiter's moons, which scientists believe might contain life, as water has been detected there.

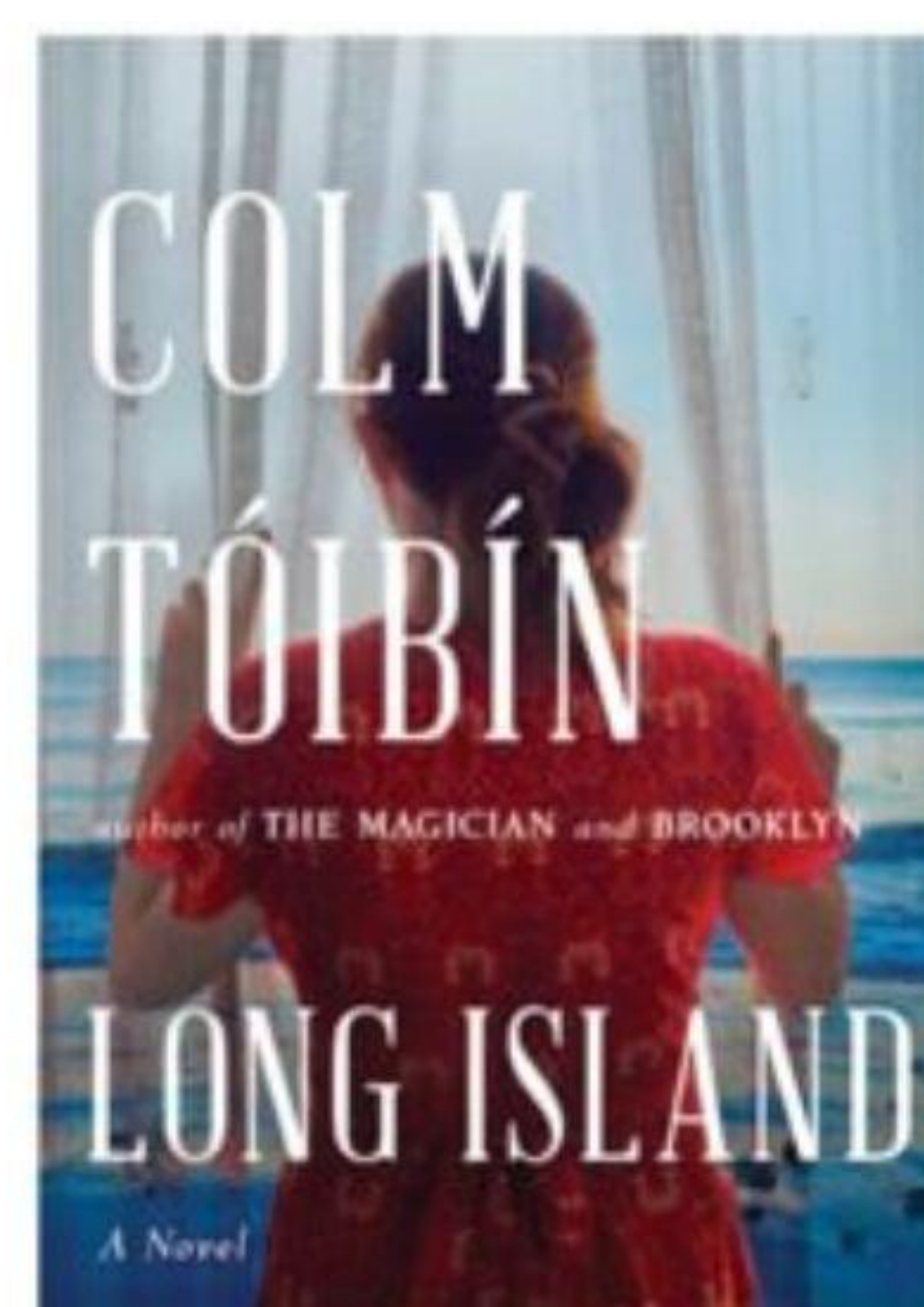
"In Praise of Mystery" by Ada Limón was released at the Library of Congress on June 1, 2023 in celebration of the poem's engraving on NASA's Europa Clipper, launched in October of 2024. Copyright Ada Limón, 2023. All rights reserved. The reproduction of this poem may in no way be used for financial gain.

Books Briefs



Tiya Miles: *Night Flyer*

The author's account of the life of Harriet Tubman reveals the miraculous journey of an African American woman who escaped enslavement in 1849 and in the 1850s headed back South to save about 80 other people. During the Civil War, she worked as a spy and scout, and afterward she cared for the elderly and disabled.



Colm Tóibín: *Long Island*

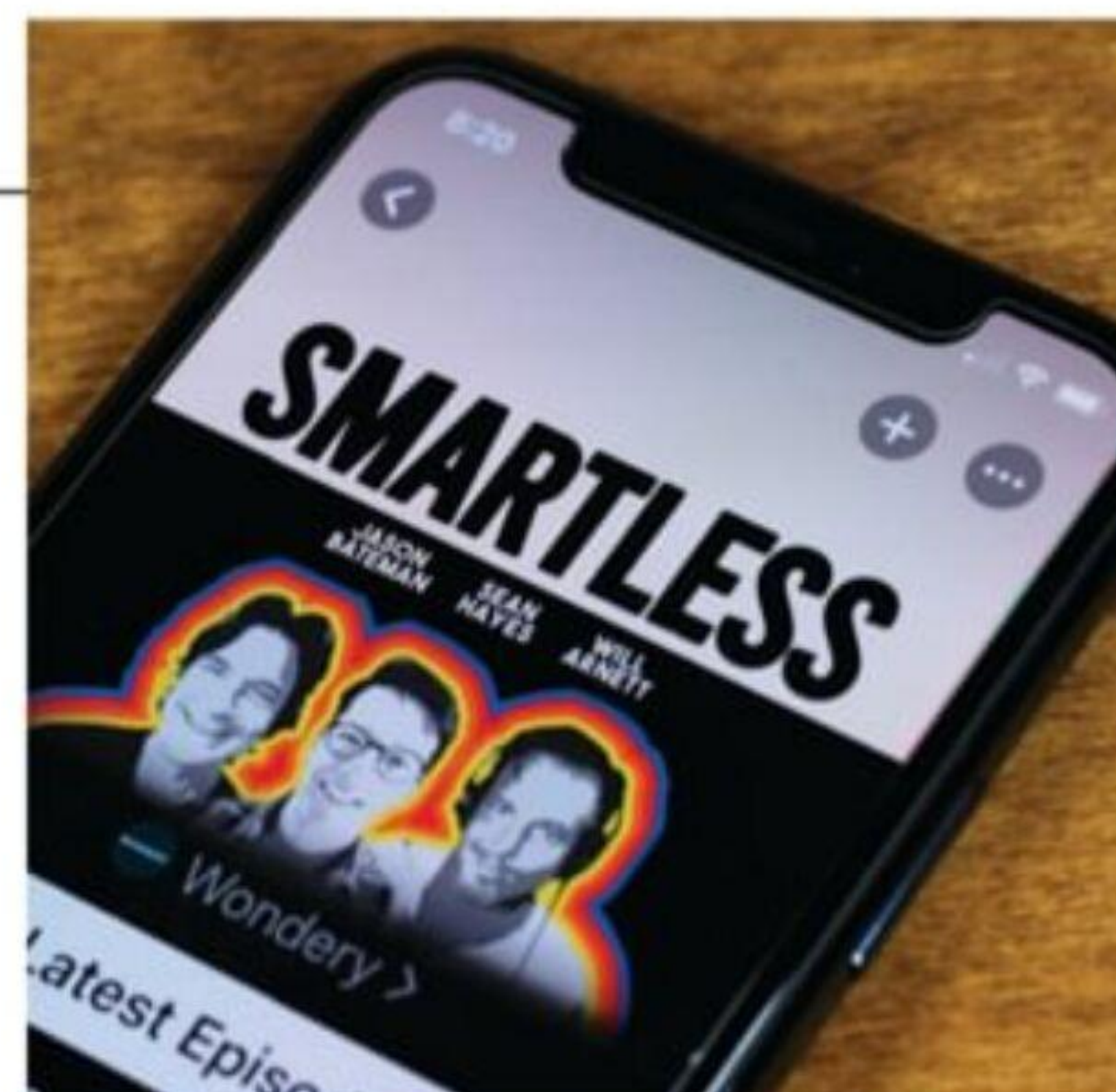
The new novel continues to follow the plucky Ellis Lacey, who left Ireland only to be unhappily wed to the plumber she met in Tóibín's 2009 *Brooklyn*. At the start we find Lacey settled on Long Island as she learns that her husband has gotten another woman pregnant. She decides to return to Ireland for the first time in two decades, where old connections loom.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Banned Books

When head librarian Suzette Baker refused to remove *Critical Race Theory*, along with 16 other titles, from the Kingsland Branch Library in Llano County, Texas, in 2022, she was fired. Several county residents filed a lawsuit opposing the bans, with a court in 2023 ordering Kingsland to restore some of the books. In March, Baker sued the county, telling PBS in April, “We need a . . . library that reflects the good, the bad, and the ugly.” In June, the Authors Guild Foundation gave her its Champion of Writers award.

Many besides Baker (below) are fighting back against attempts to scrub libraries of what some see as objectionable. PEN America reported that there have been nearly 10,000 instances of bans from July 2021 to the end of the 2023 school year. In Texas, booksellers and publishers sued over a law that forced them to rate materials for appropriateness and banned libraries from holding “sexually explicit material.” In January, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the statute, finding that it violated the First Amendment because it unconstitutionally compels speech.

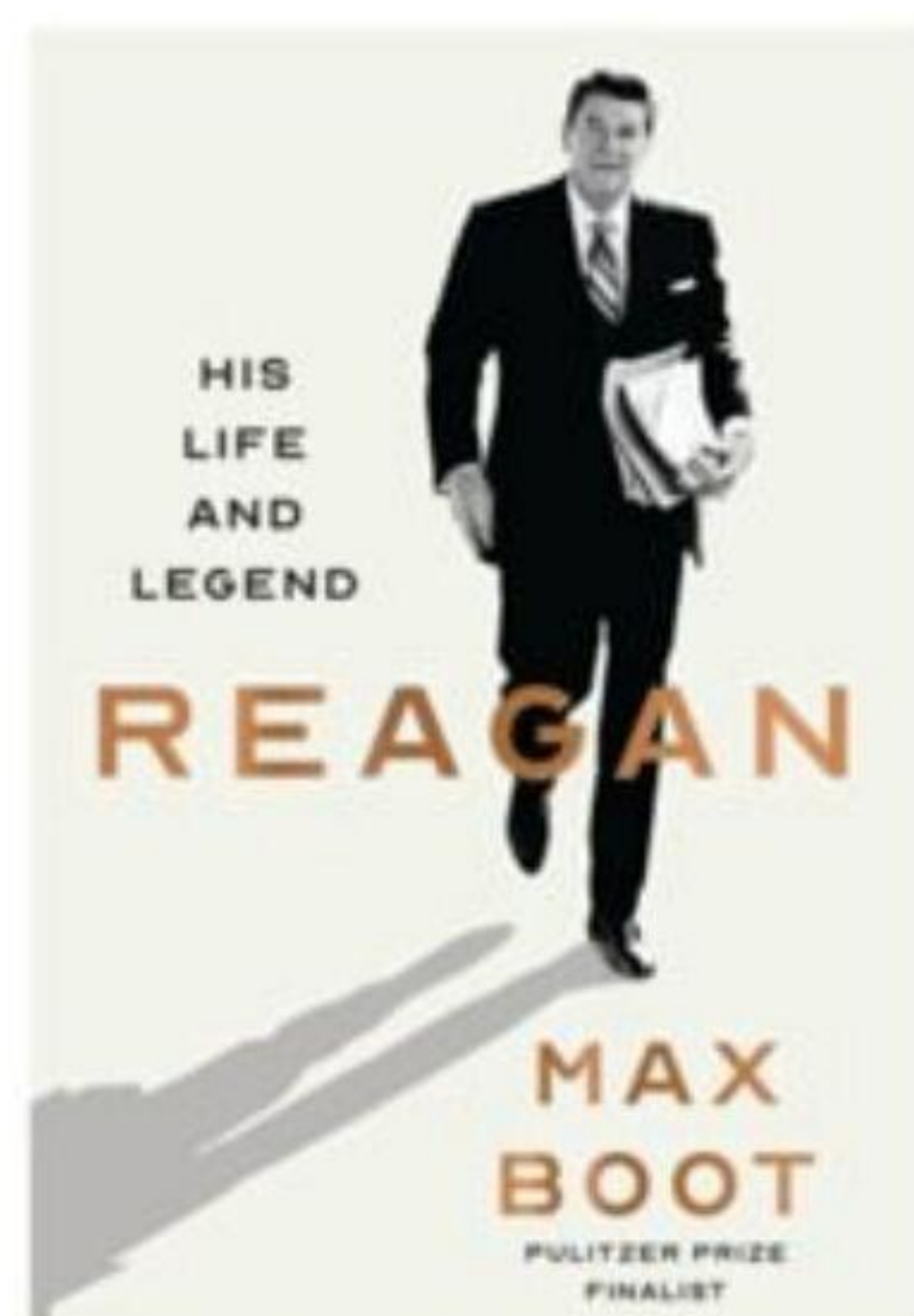


PODCASTING

SmartLess \$100 Million Deal

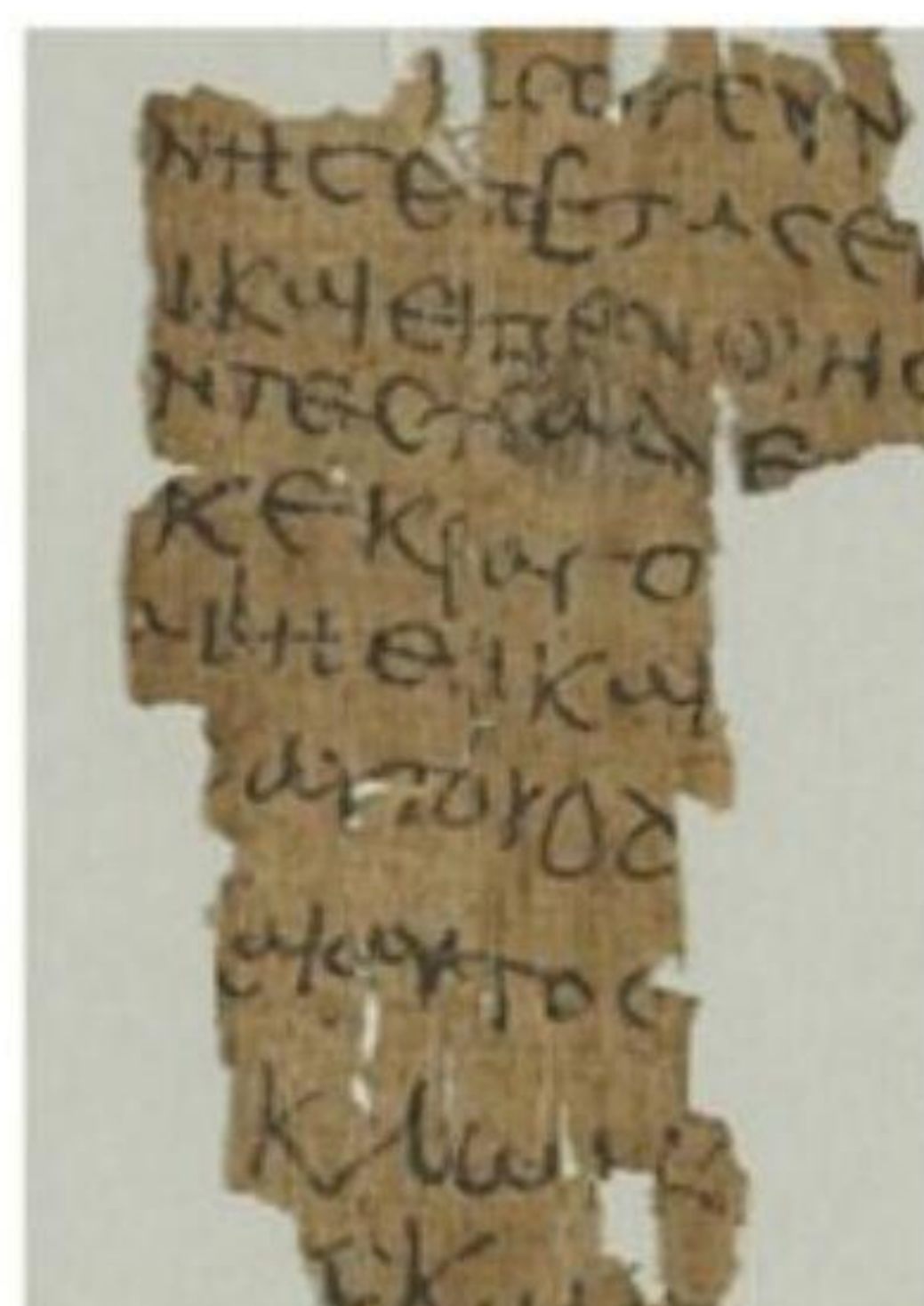
Will Arnett, Jason Bateman, and Sean Hayes have been friends for a quarter century, and in 2020, with their performing careers impacted by the pandemic, they launched the *SmartLess* podcast. Each week, one of them invites a secret guest for an interview. The trio’s positions in entertainment mean they can call on names such as Paul McCartney and Barack Obama. Their easy banter and camaraderie has made *SmartLess* one of the most popular podcasts and a winner of several iHeartPodcast Awards.

In 2021, Amazon acquired early-rights access to the podcast in a deal believed to be between \$60 million and \$80 million, and in January 2024, the three switched to SiriusXM, inking a three-year agreement, reportedly for \$100 million. With the deal, SiriusXM, which has about 34 million subscribers, obtains access to all of *SmartLess*’s content. SiriusXM also gains *SmartLess*’s other podcasts: *Just Jack & Will*, hosted by Hayes and his *Will & Grace* co-star Eric McCormack; *Bad Dates* with Joel Kim Booster, discussing dating fiascos; and *Owned* with Rex Chapman, about the world of professional sports-team owners.



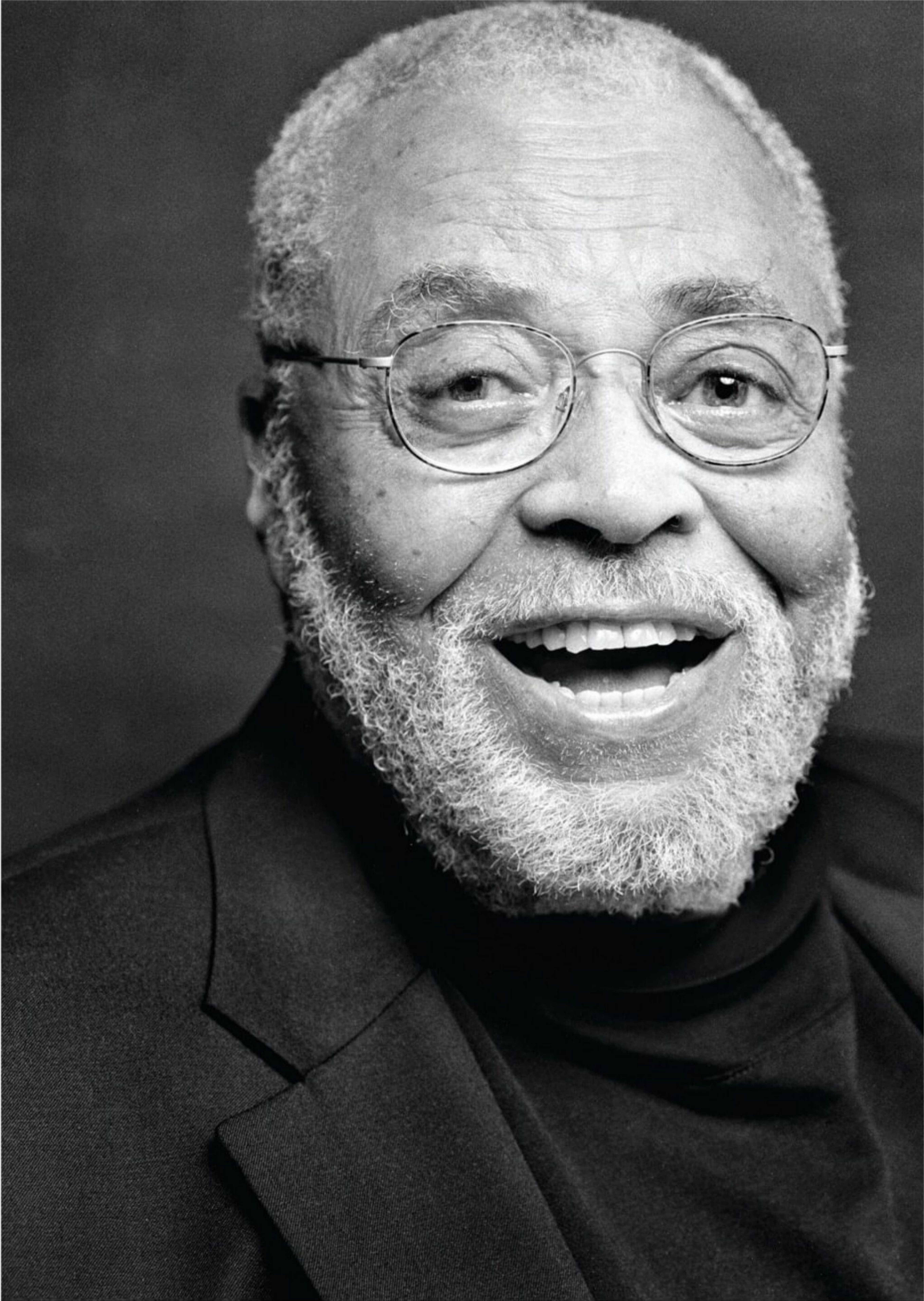
Max Boot: Ronald Reagan

This magisterial biography of the 40th president offers a vivid portrait of a man who, as a master of symbolism, dominated politics for the second half of the 20th century. He worked with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to end the Cold War and helped Americans revive their self-confidence, yet his presidency planted the seeds of Trumpism.



Jesus Papyrus

Researchers studying an overlooked document at the Hamburg Carl von Ossietzky State and University Library in Germany realized that it dates from the fourth or fifth century and contains the oldest written account of Jesus’s childhood. The passage comes from the apocrypha *Infancy Gospel of Thomas* and deals with Jesus molding mud into the shapes of birds, which then come to life.



Farewell

JAMES EARL JONES

The acclaimed actor with the sonorous voice gave us Darth Vader and King Mufasa.

JAMES EARL JONES'S VOICE COMMANDED both attention and respect, whether it was his shiver-inducing bass as Darth Vader in the original Star Wars trilogy or his regal baritone as *The Lion King*'s Mufasa. But he didn't always sound like that. As a young child, Jones developed a debilitating stutter after his parents divorced and he left his hometown in Mississippi for Michigan. He spoke little for the next decade, until an English teacher impressed by his writing persuaded him to recite a poem in class. Jones discovered that by speaking the words he knew, he didn't stammer. "I had stumbled on a principle which speech therapists and psychologists understand," he explained in his 1994 memoir *Voices and Silences*. "The written word is safe for the stutterer. The script is a sanctuary."

He developed his confident, deep voice, joined the high school debate team, and took an interest in acting. Jones, who died on September 9 at age 93, used that sound well, and his six-foot-two, 200-pound frame made him a forceful presence in plays by Shakespeare, August Wilson, and Tennessee Williams. In the 1960s, he appeared regularly on television in such shows as *The Guiding Light*, won a Tony for his turn as boxer Jack Jefferson in the 1968 play *The Great White Hope*, and earned an Oscar nod when he reprised the role in the 1970 film version. Jones would go on to appear in some 120 movies and nearly 90 TV dramas and series. He won another Tony in 1987 for *Fences* and, of course, became a cult figure as the Jedi who surrenders to the Dark Side. His *Field of Dreams* co-star Kevin Costner recalled upon hearing of his death, "That booming voice. That quiet strength. The kindness that he radiated."



BASEBALL PLAYER

Willie Mays

When Willie Mays hit his first major-league home run in 1951 at the Polo Grounds, he set off a glorious 23-year career in baseball. Playing for the New York Giants—who moved to San Francisco in 1958—and then briefly for the New York Mets, Mays had a .301 batting average with 660 home runs (third highest outside the Steroid Era). He won two MVP Awards and 11 Gold Glove Awards, and he was named an All-Star 20 times.

Throughout, the Alabama-born Mays, who died on June 18 at age 93, played the game with polished skill and boundless joy. Affectionately

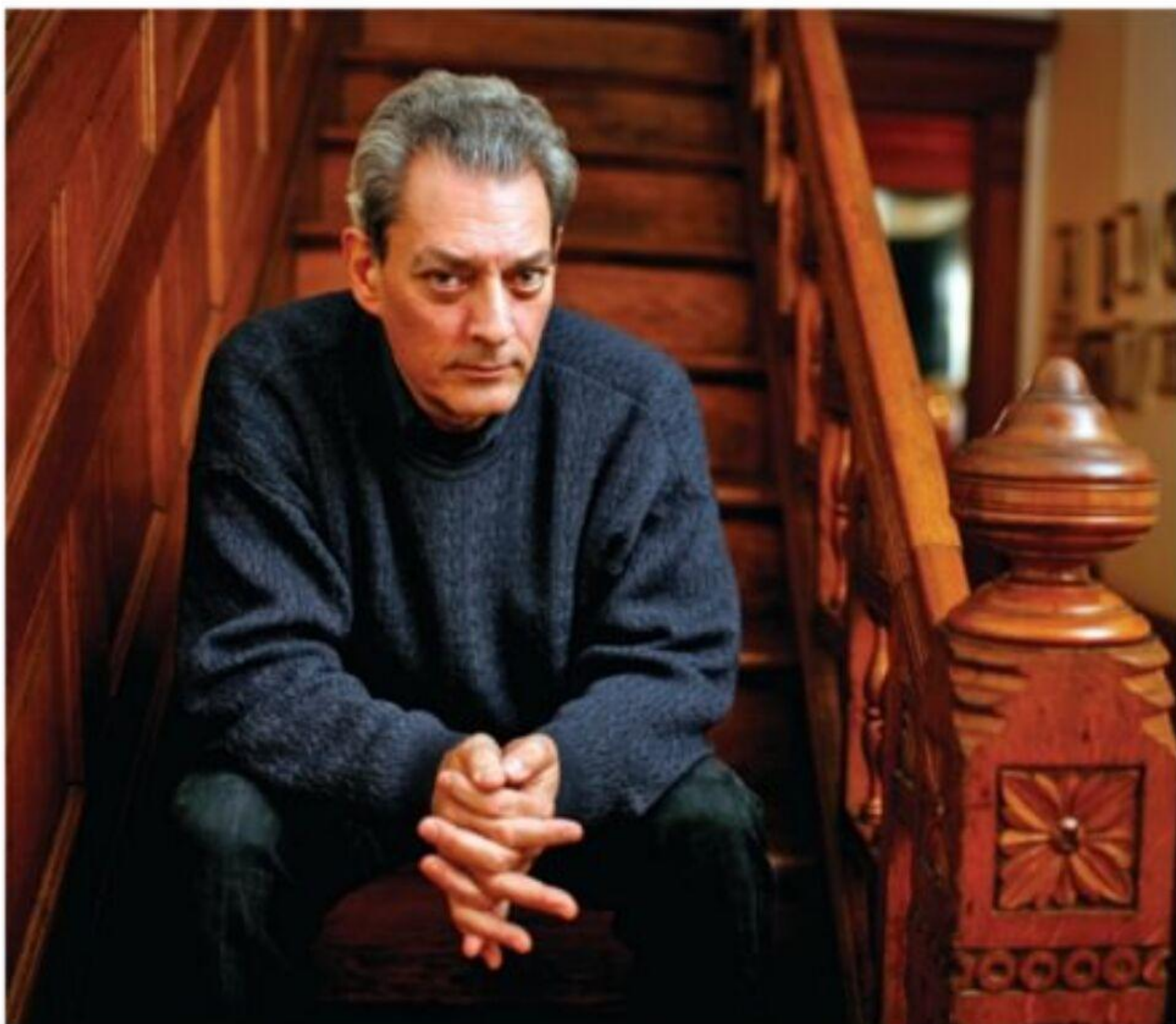
known as the “Say Hey Kid,” he was an all-around athlete with an ebullient manner and gleeful smile. He loved the game, whether he was out on the field or playing stickball with local kids on the streets of Harlem. Joe Posnanski, who wrote *The Baseball 100*, noted, “Willie Mays has always made kids feel like grown-ups and grown-ups feel like kids. In the end, isn’t that the whole point of baseball?”

When he awarded Mays the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015, Barack Obama said of him, “It’s because of giants like Willie that someone like me could even think about running for president.”

ACTOR AND DANCER

Chita Rivera

Theatergoers were first captivated by Chita Rivera when she performed on Broadway in *West Side Story*. She appeared in more than 20 musicals on the Great White Way, winning Tony Awards for 1984's *The Rink* and 1993's *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. After playwright Terrence McNally wrote a revue based on Rivera's life in 2005, he marveled that "She can't perform except for full-out. . . . She's going to be there 101 percent for that audience." On receiving a Lifetime Achievement Tony in 2018, she said, "I wouldn't trade my life in the theater for anything, because theater is life." As playwright Paul Rudnick wrote after Rivera's death on January 30 at age 91, "The moment she stepped on stage, the world became more exciting and glorious."



AUTHOR

Paul Auster

"I've always wanted to write what to me is beautiful, true, and good, but I'm also interested in inventing new ways to tell stories. I wanted to turn everything inside out," Paul Auster said in the 2017 book of conversations *A Life in Words*. Many of his literary inventions, such as the 2017 novel *4321*, which was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize, were set in landscapes familiar to him: New Jersey and Brooklyn. He wrote them first with a fountain pen before turning to his typewriter. Auster, who died April 30 at age 77, wrote 34 books that included his *New York Trilogy*, as well as essays and also screenplays for such films as 1995's *Smoke*.

Farewell



SEX THERAPIST

Dr. Ruth Westheimer

While you could easily mistake the four-foot-seven Dr. Ruth Westheimer for a kindly relative, she spoke to you like a no-nonsense friend, offering forthright conversation about human sexuality. Many called her Grandma Freud. Born in Germany, Westheimer lost her family in the Holocaust. She arrived in New York in 1956 and trained in family planning. In 1980, she started a 15-minute radio show called *Sexually Speaking*. As she told the *Harvard Business Review*, “I did not know that my eventual contribution to the world would be to talk about orgasms and erections. But I did know I had to do something for others to justify being alive.” Her clear responses to listeners’ questions led to the launch of her TV career in 1984, starting with *Good Sex! With Dr. Ruth Westheimer*. The therapist, who died July 12 at age 96, appeared in ads, including for condoms, and there was even an off-Broadway show about her called *Becoming Dr. Ruth*.

ACTOR

O.J. Simpson

As a wildly popular running back for the Buffalo Bills and the first football player to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season, O.J. Simpson had drive. He also had charm, and he used it to act in movies such as *The Naked Gun*. Yet he is best remembered for his widely televised 1995 trial for the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman. Despite DNA evidence that placed Simpson at the scene of the crime, his defense team successfully argued that he was framed by Los Angeles police, and he was found not guilty. In 1997, a civil jury found Simpson, who died April 10 at age 76, liable for their deaths, and he was ordered to pay \$33.5 million to their families. In 2008, 13 years to the day after his criminal acquittal, Simpson was found guilty of multiple charges, including armed robbery of sports memorabilia, in Las Vegas and spent nine years in prison.





THEORETICAL PHYSICIST

Peter Higgs

British theoretical physicist Peter Higgs was 35 in 1964 when he had his eureka moment, realizing that there was an unknown particle that fills space, and that by interacting with elementary subatomic particles, it gave them mass. It was called the God Particle but is now known as the Higgs boson. It wasn't until 48 years later, in 2012, that Switzerland's Large Electron-Positron Collider accelerator at CERN finally proved that the Higgs boson existed. In 2013, Higgs, who died on April 8 at age 94, shared the Nobel Prize in Physics for his finding.



BUSINESS EXECUTIVE

Susan Wojcicki

In 1998, Susan Wojcicki was working at Intel and renting space in her Menlo Park, California, garage to Larry Page and Sergey Brin for \$1,700 a month as they created the groundbreaking search engine that would become known as Google. She soon joined them as the firm's 16th employee, used their shoestring budget to market the brand, and helped make it profitable; today the firm is worth \$2 trillion. After Google bought YouTube, she became its CEO. It became the most popular video service, and Wojcicki, who died August 9 at age 56, worked to control misinformation, hate speech, and inappropriate content. In 2007, she helped acquire the advertising technology company DoubleClick.



ACTOR

John Amos

John Amos's dream of a football career wasn't to be, so he started acting. His portrayal of James Evans Sr., the patriarch on the hit 1970s sitcom *Good Times*, offered American TV viewers one of the first positive portrayals of a working-class African American family living in public housing. Amos noted that the show gave a voice to "a segment of the population that had been ignored and had been mislabeled." The actor, who died August 21 at age 84, went on to portray the adult Kunta Kinte in the 1977 miniseries *Roots* and was the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on *The West Wing*.



ADVOCATE

Ethel Kennedy

Coretta Scott King was on the train that took Robert F. Kennedy's body to Washington, D.C., following his assassination in 1968, and she marveled at how his grieving widow, Ethel, spent her time tending to and speaking to many of the 1,100 people on board, commenting, "I don't see how she has been able to go through this awful experience with so much dignity." Ethel, who was at Robert's side when he was gunned down, was able to because she fervently embraced the family maxim "Kennedys don't cry." She raised her and Robert's 11 children and fought for social justice and human rights, noting the day after Robert died, "We're placed on the earth and somehow given a sense of responsibility to give life and love and help to others." She died on October 10 at age 96.

TALK SHOW HOST

Phil Donahue

With so many TV gab fests, it's hard to remember that they didn't really exist until Phil Donahue came along. The man known as the King of Daytime Talk Shows created the genre in Dayton, Ohio, when *The Phil Donahue Show* (later just called *Donahue*) first aired in 1967. Nationally syndicated a few years later, the show moved to Chicago in 1974, and in more than 6,000 episodes, Donahue covered such hot-button topics as homosexuality, politics, and civil rights. The host chatted with Farrah Fawcett, boxed with Muhammad Ali, and offered cooking segments. Donahue, who died August 18 at age 88, even met his wife, *That Girl* actress Marlo Thomas, when she was a guest. His show won 20 Daytime Emmys and made possible the success of others like Oprah Winfrey, who upon hearing of his passing wrote, "There wouldn't have been an *Oprah* show without Phil Donahue being the first to prove that daytime talk and women watching should be taken seriously. He was a pioneer."



COMPOSER AND PRODUCER

Quincy Jones

A musical polymath, the Chicago-born Jones started playing piano at 11, headed out on tour with Lionel Hampton at 18, and would go on to become a titan of the entertainment world. Jones, who died on November 3 at age 91, won 28 Grammys, along with a Tony, an Emmy, and an Oscar. He produced Michael Jackson's 1982 *Thriller*—the best-selling album of all time—wrote scores for such films as 1967's *In the Heat of the Night*, arranged music for Frank Sinatra, and conducted the 1985 "We Are the World" single that raised money for African famine relief.



ACTOR

Gena Rowlands

It is understandable why the *New Yorker* called Gena Rowlands "the most important and original movie actor of the past half century." She appeared in 10 films directed by her husband, director John Cassavetes, and created a host of indelible characters in such movies as 1968's *Faces*, 1974's *A Woman Under the Influence*, and 1980's *Gloria*. Rowlands, who died August 14 at age 94, earned two Oscar nods and went on to charm a new generation of moviegoers with her portrayal of Allie Calhoun in 2004's *The Notebook*. She also won four Emmy Awards, and when the Academy awarded her with an honorary Oscar in 2015 she told the audience, "You know what's wonderful about being an actress? It is you don't just live one life—yours—you live many lives."

Farewell

AUTHOR

Alice Munro

The Canadian-born Alice Munro perfected the art of the contemporary short story. In collections like 1978's *Who Do You Think You Are?* as well as in stories in the *New Yorker* and the *Paris Review*, Munro, who died May 13 at age 92, captured the familiar quandaries and complications of everyday life. Her work, often set in her native western Ontario, was rooted in domestic drama, from daughters who didn't understand their mothers to partners pulled apart due to their different upbringings. Munro won numerous prestigious literary awards, including the 2013 Nobel Prize for Literature. Following her death, Munro's daughter claimed that her mother had done nothing to stop abuse at the hands of her stepfather.



MUSICIAN

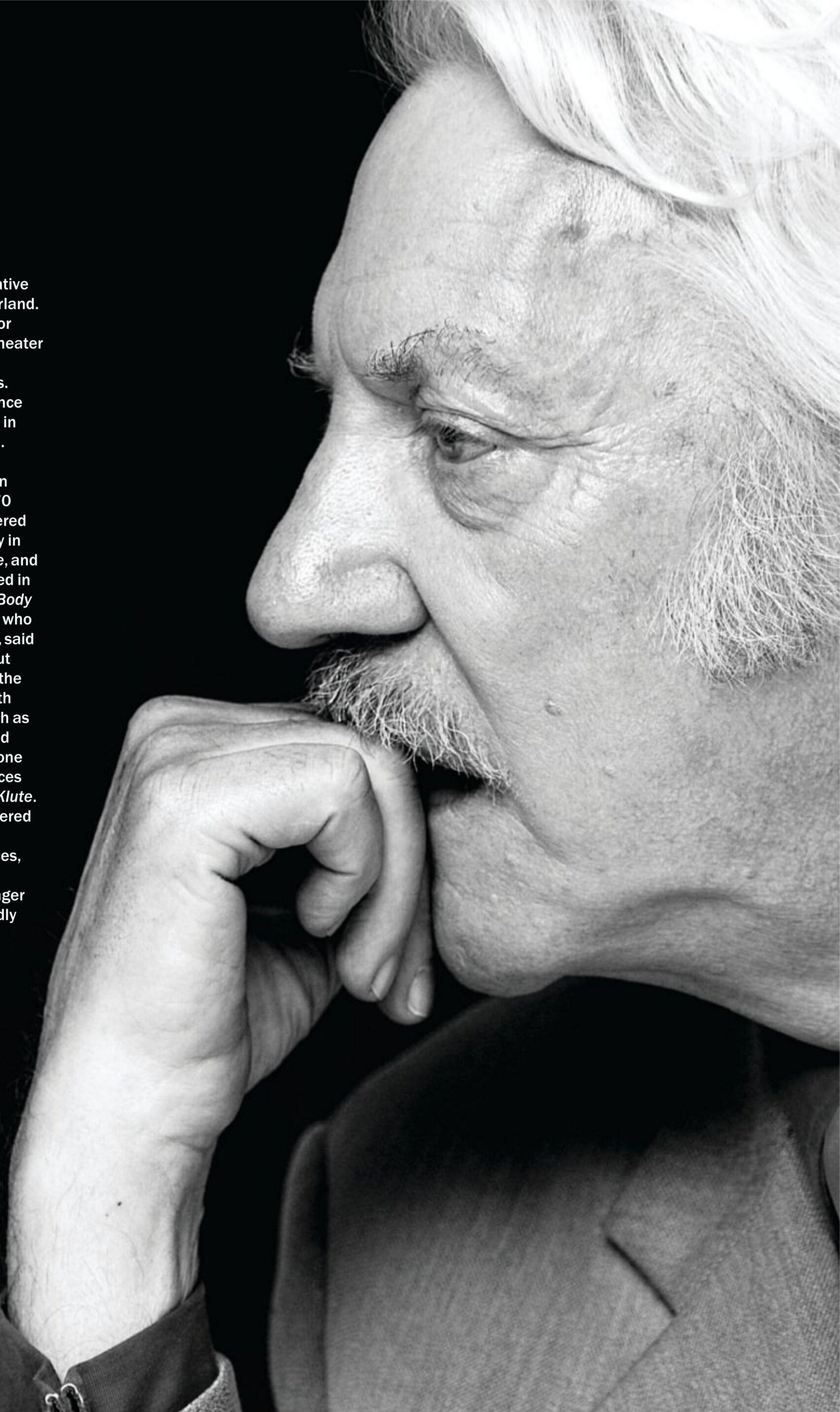
Tito Jackson

Tito Jackson was known as the quiet brother in the Jackson 5, a quintet that created music that epitomized the Motown sound. With such No. 1 hits as “ABC,” “I’ll Be There,” and “I Want You Back,” they became one of the world’s most successful pop groups and launched the huge career of brother Michael. Tito, who died September 15 at age 70, played the guitar and did background singing for the band and with the others was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1997. His 2016 debut album, *Tito Time*, made him the last of the original Jackson 5 to release a solo project. He followed it up in 2021 with *Under Your Spell*.

ACTOR

Donald Sutherland

Few actors have shown such a wide transformative range as Donald Sutherland. The Canadian-born actor trained in the London theater and appeared in nearly 200 films and TV shows. His breakout performance was as a military misfit in 1967's *The Dirty Dozen*. He went on to play an irreverent Army surgeon in Robert Altman's 1970 comedy *M*A*S*H*, offered a heartbreaking display in 1980's *Ordinary People*, and was knock-down terrified in 1978's *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. Sutherland, who died June 20 at age 88, said that "film acting is about the surrender of will to the director." He worked with many of the greats, such as Bernardo Bertolucci and Federico Fellini, giving one of his finest performances in Alan Pakula's 1971 *Klute*. Sutherland likewise offered quite a few wonderful late-career performances, from the evil President Snow in the 2010s Hunger Games films to the kindly Mr. Bennet in 2005's *Pride and Prejudice*.



Farewell



ACTOR

Louis Gossett Jr.

To prepare for his portrayal of Gunnery Sergeant Emil Foley in 1982's *An Officer and a Gentleman*, Louis Gossett Jr. spent six weeks on a Marine base. Richard Gere, who acted opposite Gossett in that film, recalled after Gossett's death on March 29 at age 87 that "He stayed in character the whole time. I don't think we ever saw him socially. He was the drill sergeant 24 hours a day, and it showed clearly in his performance. He drove every scene he was in." The intensity of Gossett's performance won him an Academy Award, making him the first Black performer to win one for best supporting actor. That drive was with Gossett from the start. He first strode a Broadway stage when he was still in high school in Brooklyn, appearing as the lead in 1953's *Take a Giant Step*. Six years later, he appeared again on Broadway in *A Raisin in the Sun* and had his movie debut opposite Sidney Poitier in the 1961 movie version. In 1977, Gossett earned an Emmy for his portrayal of Fiddler in the TV miniseries *Roots*.

ACTOR

Shannen Doherty

Viewers first glimpsed Shannen Doherty's mean-girl swagger in the 1989 cult comedy *Heathers*. But it was on the 1990s show *Beverly Hills, 90210* that Doherty revealed a mix of Gen X angst, teen fragility, and feminist grit. The actor thrived as a porcelain-skinned, dark-haired drama queen in a world of tanned, blonde Valley girls. She wasn't for everyone, but that was part of her appeal, with tabloids charting her every reportedly imperious behavior. "I was 21 years old, trying to grow up and figure out who I was," Doherty told *TIME*. "I didn't consciously think, 'Maybe I should be real low-key and stay in my house.' Instead I was like, 'I'm 21, and I can go out and have a great time.'" Doherty, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015 and died on July 13 at age 53, became an advocate for cancer awareness, discussing the disease on her podcast *Let's Be Clear*.





MUSICIAN

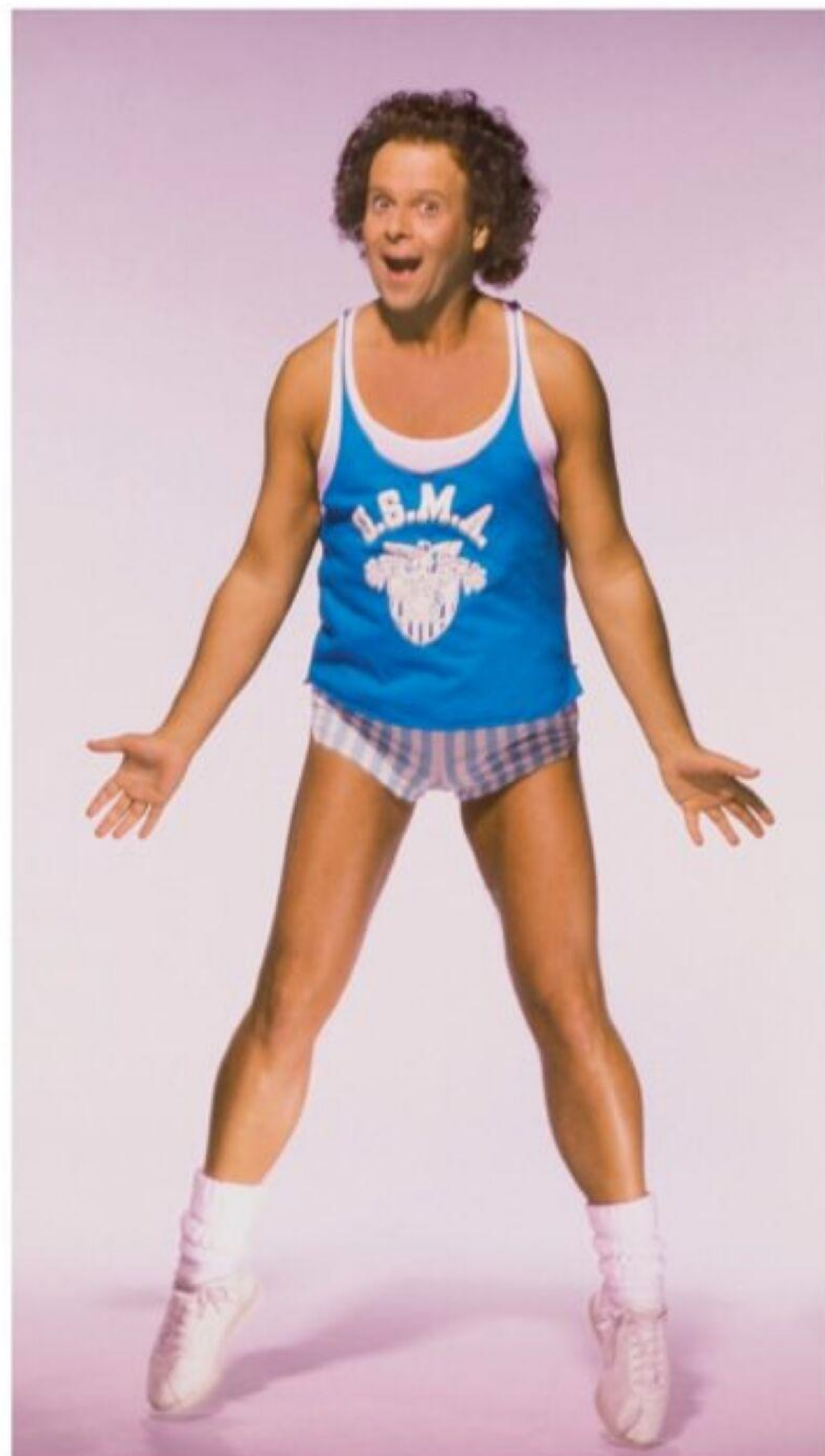
Liam Payne

Famous for his falsetto, Liam Payne used it well to help make One Direction one of the most successful boy bands ever with such chart-toppers as “What Makes You Beautiful.” After 1D disbanded in 2016, Payne, who died at age 31 on October 16 after falling from a Buenos Aires balcony, pursued a solo career. His single “Strip That Down” reached No. 10 on the Billboard Hot 100. Upon learning of his death, former bandmates Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Harry Styles, and Louis Tomlinson posted that they were “devastated” and “needed to grieve and process the loss of our brother, who we loved dearly.”

FITNESS COACH

Richard Simmons

Joyfully known as the Clown Prince of Fitness, Richard Simmons loved to make motivational speeches and get others to dance and hop around as they discovered the joy of physical fitness and being healthy. He did this by turning his early childhood into an inspirational story for others, recalling that “I’m just a good example of a chubby, fat, unhappy kid who lived in New Orleans, Louisiana, and dreamed.” Back then, Simmons weighed 268 pounds, and one day he found a note on his car that read, “Fat people die young. Please don’t die.” Determined to get into shape, Simmons moved to Los Angeles and opened his Slimmons exercise studio in Beverly Hills. Always sporting his signature tank top and gym shorts, he was someone who didn’t seem to have an off switch, with *People* magazine calling him a “hyperkinetic elf in an emerald-green track suit.” He created several *Sweatin’ to the Oldies* videos, among many others—which sold some 20 million copies—appeared on such programs as the *The Dr. Ruth Show*, and was a regular guest on *Late Show with David Letterman*. Simmons, who died on July 13 at age 76, became increasingly private later in life, and the *Missing Richard Simmons* podcast was a popular download.





ACTOR

Bob Newhart

In 1959, Bob Newhart decided to take a year off from his work in accounting to see if he was any good at comedy. His deadpan delivery and signature stammer quickly birthed a career, and his 1960 comedy album *The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart* won a Grammy. Newhart's understated delivery excelled when he played a Chicago psychologist dealing with a vast array of quirky neighbors and patients in his 1970s sitcom *The Bob Newhart Show*. From 1982 to 1990, he starred in *Newhart*, on which he ran—in his famously droll manner—a Vermont inn. It wasn't until he portrayed Sheldon Cooper's childhood idol Professor Proton in *The Big Bang Theory* that he finally won an Emmy Award. Newhart characteristically commented on the long-overdue trophy that arrived in 2013, "I guess they think I'm not acting. That it's just Bob being Bob." He died July 18 at age 94.

ACTOR

Shelley Duvall

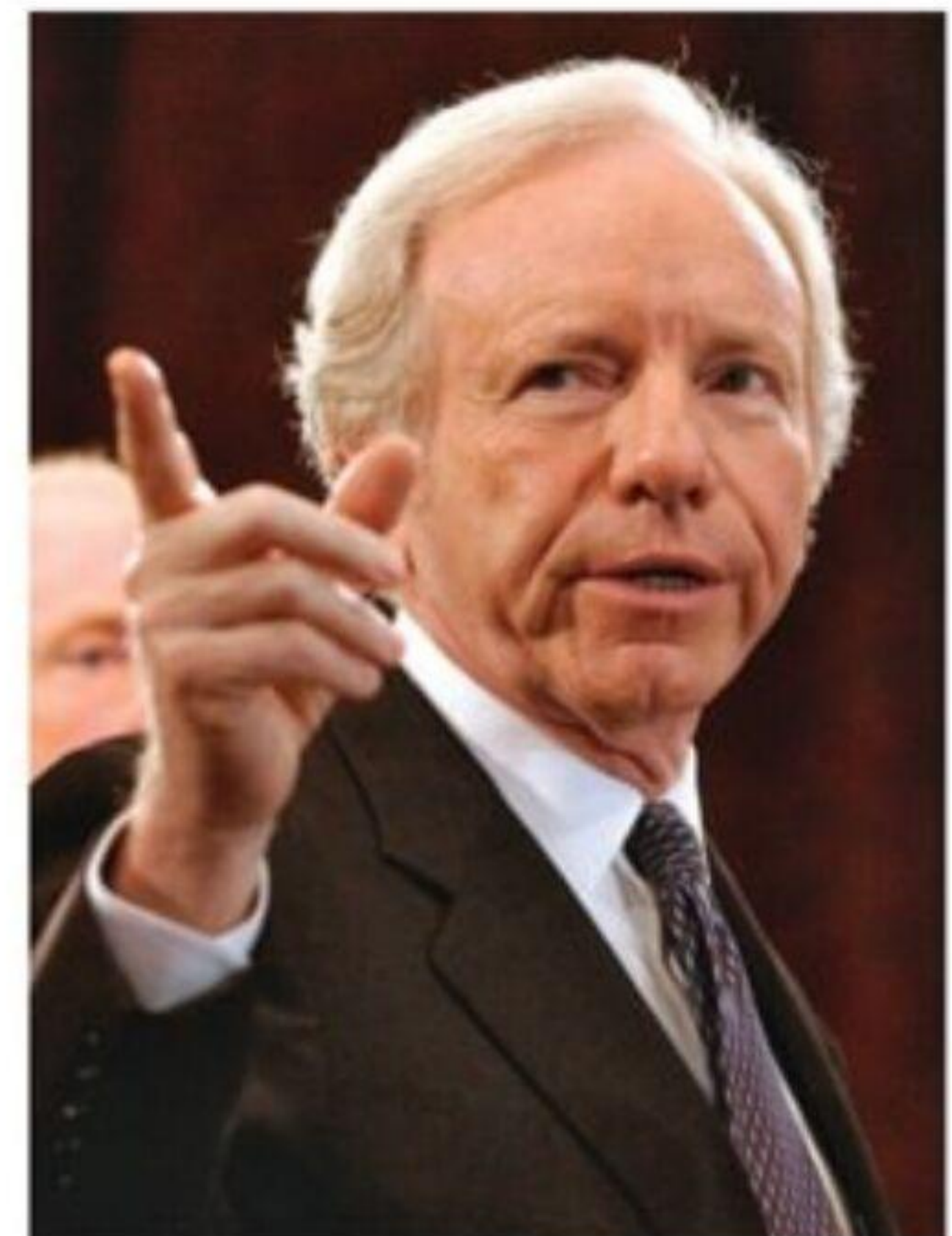
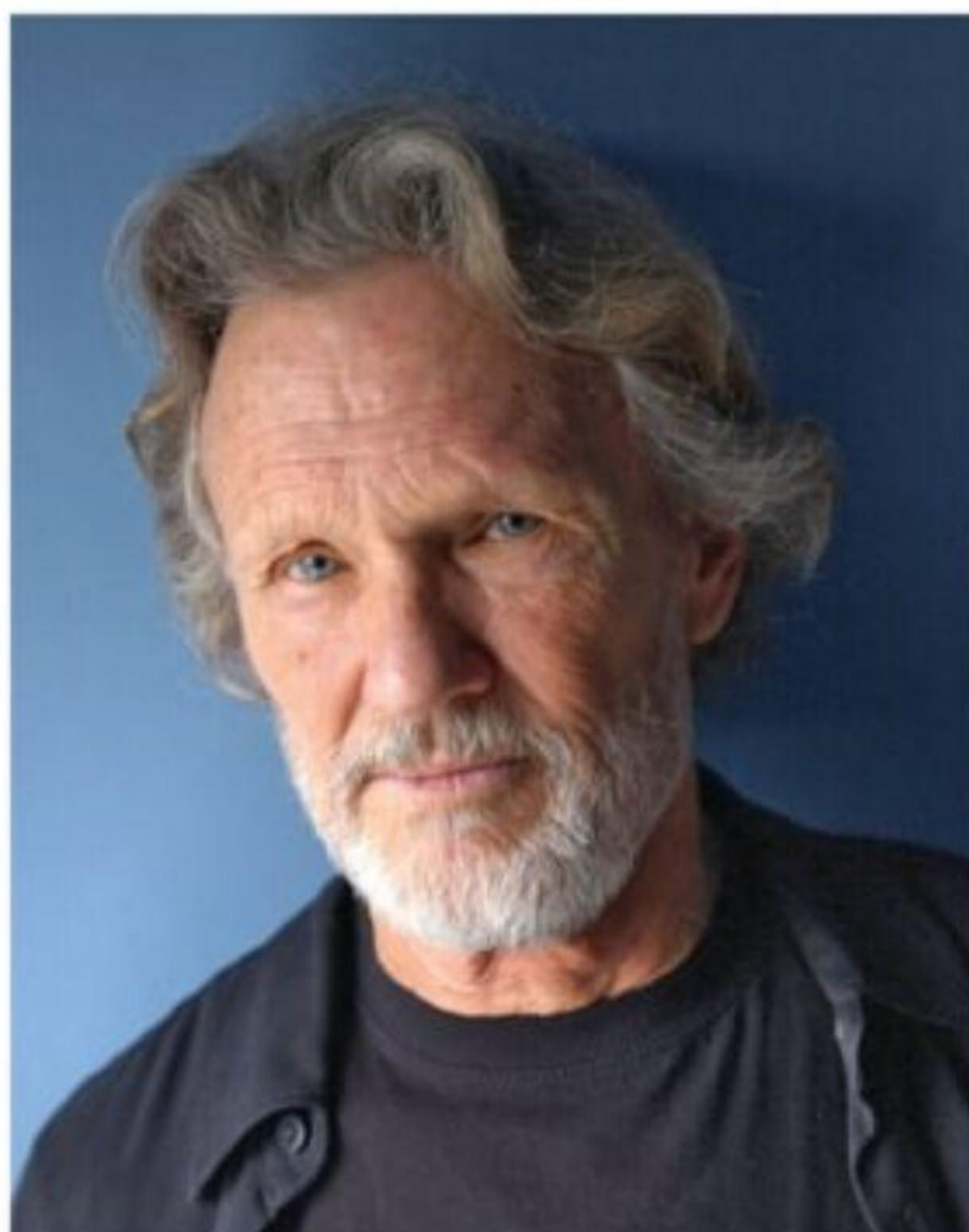
Shelley Duvall was at a party when she met crew members of director Robert Altman, who was in Houston making his 1970 film *Brewster McCloud*. They introduced her to Altman, who was immediately captivated by the 20-year-old and cast her in the film. The gangly actor with the doe-like eyes would appear in five more Altman films, including 1975's *Nashville*, 1977's *3 Women*—for which Duvall won best actress at the Cannes Film Festival—and 1980's *Popeye*. *New Yorker* critic Pauline Kael was also taken by Duvall's talent, noting that “[h]er charm appears to be totally without affectation.” In reviewing *Popeye*, Kael referred to Duvall as perhaps “the closest thing we’ve ever come to a female Buster Keaton.” Duvall, who died July 11 at age 75, is probably best remembered as Wendy Torrance, the terrified wife in the 1980 *The Shining* who watches as her husband, played by Jack Nicholson, spirals into ax-wielding insanity.



MUSICIAN AND ACTOR

Kris Kristofferson

Kris Kristofferson might have been a Rhodes Scholar, but it still took a while for him to learn how to write a good country song. When he did, the former Army captain brought a languid sensibility to such tunes as “Me and Bobby McGee,” which was a posthumous hit for Janis Joplin. Kristofferson had a second career as a film star, appearing in more than 50 movies, including opposite Barbra Streisand in 1976's *A Star Is Born*. “Somehow I just slipped into it, and it’s worked,” he said of his life. He died September 28 at age 88.



POLITICIAN

Joe Lieberman

While a senator from Connecticut, Joe Lieberman ran in 2000 for vice president on Al Gore's Democratic ticket, becoming the first Jewish candidate on a major party run. That highly disputed election went to George W. Bush after a tortuous and at times by-hand ballot recount. Lieberman stayed in the Senate until 2013, where he supported such issues as abortion rights, gay rights, and the environment, but he was also known to be hawkish on foreign policy. Upon hearing of his running mate's passing on March 22 at the age of 82, Gore said of Lieberman, “Joe was a man of deep integrity who dedicated his life to serving his country. He was a truly gifted leader, whose affable personality and strong will made him a force to be reckoned with.”

Farewell



ACTOR

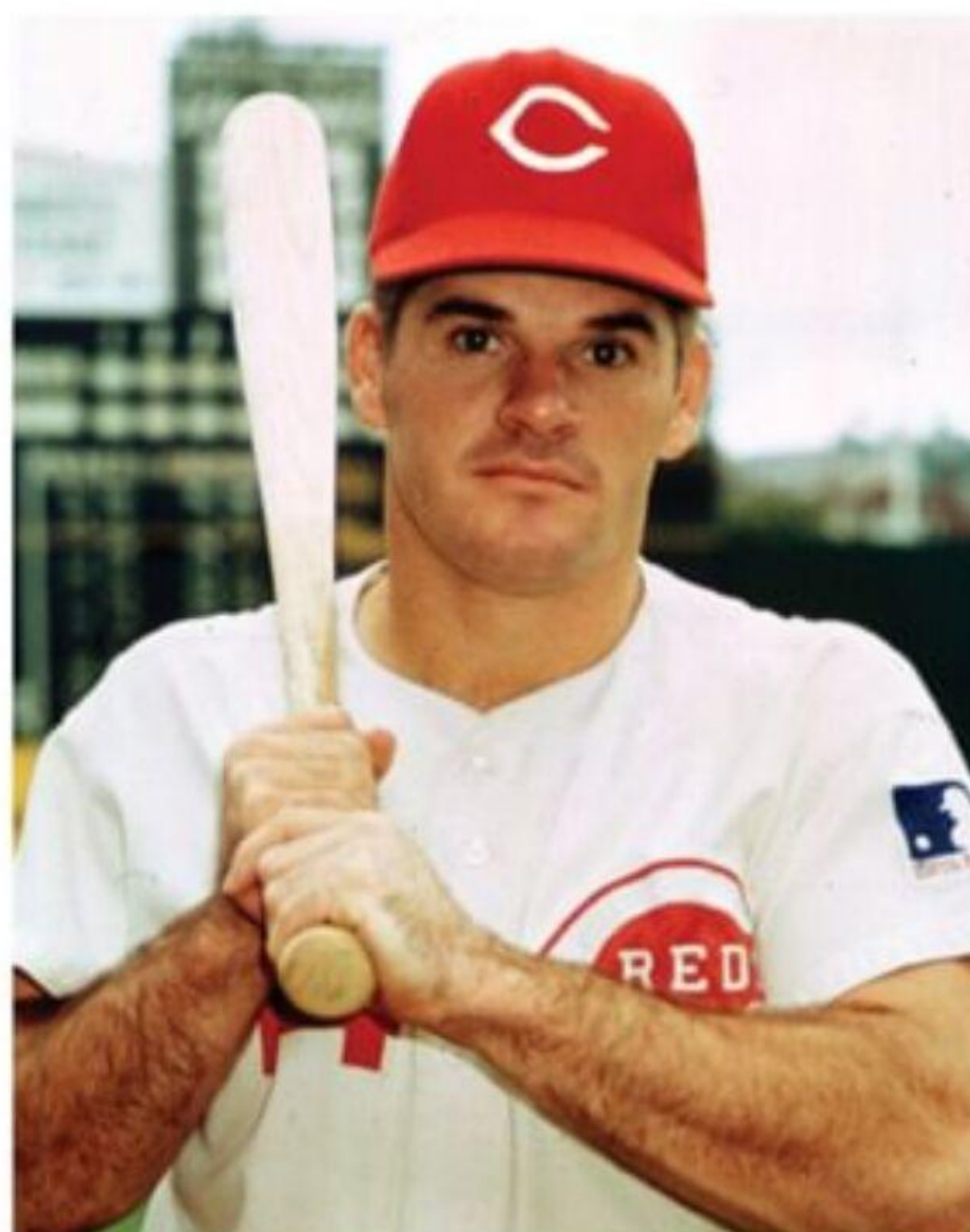
Carl Weathers

After trying his hand at football, playing with the Oakland Raiders and then the BC Lions, Carl Weathers turned to his first love, acting. Blessed with a natural combination of talent, charisma, and muscle, he KO-ed his portrayal of Apollo Creed, a boxing adversary turned colleague of Sylvester Stallone's character in four *Rocky* films. On hearing of Weathers' death on February 1 at age 76, Stallone said, "[W]hen he walked into that room and I saw him for the first time, I saw greatness. But I didn't realize how great. I never could've accomplished what we did with *Rocky* without him." Weathers would go on to appear in some 80 movies and TV shows, earning an Emmy nomination in 2021 for his portrayal of bounty hunter Greef Karga in *The Mandalorian*.

ACTOR

Teri Garr

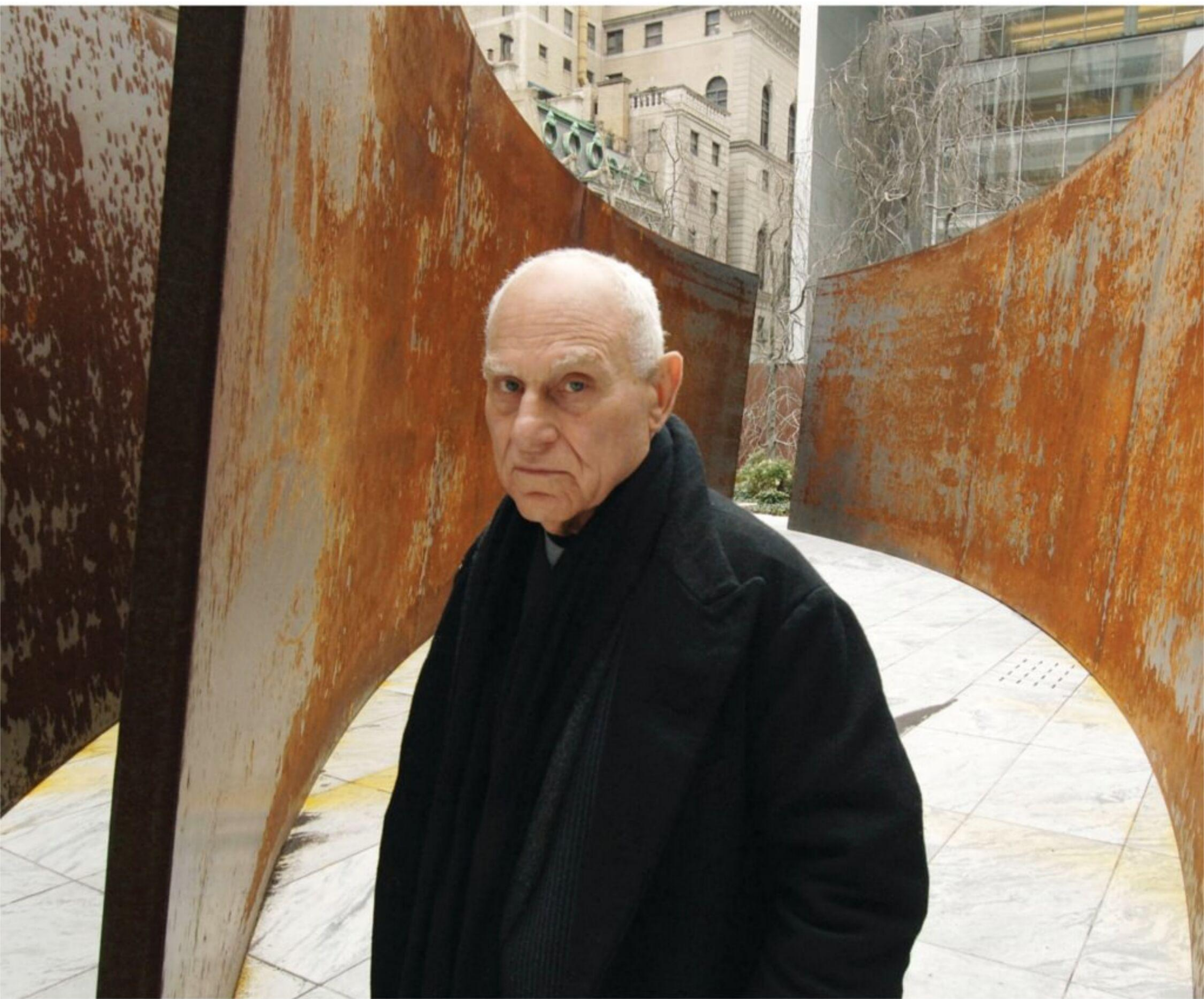
The daughter of a vaudeville actor and a Rockette, Teri Garr began appearing in movies and on TV in 1963. She appeared in such Elvis Presley hits as *Viva Las Vegas*, became a regular on *The Sonny & Cher Show*, and scored her first break in the 1974 thriller *The Conversation*. Later that year, she was in Mel Brooks's *Young Frankenstein*. In it, she channeled Cher's wigmaker's German accent to play Frankenstein's assistant, Inga. She effortlessly nailed quirky, especially with her turn in 1982's *Tootsie* as the girlfriend who loses Dustin Hoffman to Jessica Lange, a role that prompted *New Yorker* film critic Pauline Kael to call Garr "perhaps the funniest neurotic dizzy dame on the screen" and earned her an Oscar nomination. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1999, Garr continued to work and became a spokeswoman for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She died on October 29 at age 79, with Hoffman noting, "Teri was brilliant and singular in all she did and had a heart of gold."



BASEBALL PLAYER

Pete Rose

When Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford nicknamed Pete Rose "Charlie Hustle," it wasn't meant as a compliment. Even so, Rose, who hustled at everything he did, embraced it. He won the Rookie of the Year Award in 1963, played on three World Series winners, and during his 24 years in the majors had a record 4,256 hits. All of this made his fall from grace hard. Rose, who died September 30 at age 83, bet regularly on baseball—which is forbidden—and in 1989 was banned from the game and prevented from induction into the Hall of Fame.



SCULPTOR

Richard Serra

Richard Serra's sculptures often weighed 20 tons or more. So when he needed to move the work, he had to hire crane operators and get permits to cross bridges. Made from coiling steel plates that he contorted into curved shapes, twisted ovals, and spirals, his pieces developed a rusted brown patina, which gave them an ancient feel, while their seeming instability made them look as if they might crash to the ground. Yet there was a permanence and solid stance to them. They became

popular outdoor commissions, offering viewers intimate spaces to explore.

Not everyone appreciated Serra's work, though, viewing it as severe, offputting, and unwelcoming. His 12-foot-high, 120-foot-long "Tilted Arc" raised a furor after it was set in front of federal government office buildings in lower Manhattan in 1981. Many saw it as an eyesore, and it was removed in 1989. Thankfully, many others valued Serra's vision. The artist, who died on March 26 at age 85, earned retrospectives at New York's Museum of Modern Art in both 1986 and 2007.

Farewell



ACTOR

Maggie Smith

Maggie Smith made imperiousness feel as light and glancing as a chiffon scarf. The actor, who died September 27 at age 89, had a long career on stage, where she played Desdemona opposite Laurence Olivier's Othello and won a Tony for her fact-deficient tour guide in *Lettice and Lovage*. She personified tightly wound aunties in such movies as *Washington Square* and *A Room with a View*. She possessed the bearing of royalty and the eyes of a comedienne, winning an Oscar in 1969 for her *The Prime of Miss.*

Jean Brodie, in which she portrayed a Scottish schoolteacher, and again for 1978's *California Suite* as a snooty English actress who's been nominated for an Academy Award. Smith went on to thrill a new generation of audiences who adored her withering glares as the Dowager Countess Violet Crawley on *Downton Abbey*, as well as her magical turn as peppery assistant headmistress Professor Minerva McGonagall in the Harry Potter films. As she commented on *The Graham Norton Show*, "A lot of very small people kind of used to say hello to me, and that was nice."

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MILESTONE

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Milestone



Our New National Bird

The bald eagle was adopted as the coat of arms for the Great Seal of the United States in 1782. It's also the main insignia for all branches of the military and appears on U.S. money. Yet the eagle was never officially designated as America's national symbol, and with hunting in the early 20th century and the ravages of pesticide decimating its numbers, the great bird nearly went extinct. By 1963, there were just 417 known nesting pairs in the lower 48 states. Conservation efforts restored them, and there are now more than 300,000 bald eagles soaring through our skies. In July, the Senate unanimously passed a bill designating the eagle as the national bird.



U-S-A, U-S-A, U-S-A!

Three U.S. runners made the eight-man final in the 100 meters at the Paris Olympics. Noah Lyles (Lane 7) won gold, Fred Kerley (Lane 3) took bronze, and Kenneth Bednarek (Lane 2) finished seventh. Less than one-tenth of a second separated the sprinters, and it only looks like they ran as if someone were chasing them. That someone was themselves, captured in this digital composite as they appeared at various instants in the race.